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NEWSWATCH



Sheikha Nashmiya speaks
Sheikha Nashmiya the sister of HH the Amir exudes an aura of sophistication as she speaks to Luma Al Khalatani on her feelings of patriotism and her passion for collecting art. See Page 7

Dependents visa transferable

By Bassam Al Qassas
An official source at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour announced yesterday that expatriates residing in Kuwait on dependent residence (Article 22) can transfer their residence into the private or public sector, provided they fulfil the necessary conditions.
The source said that such persons can apply to transfer their residences. It is well known that expatriates holding dependent visas are not allowed to work or seek any job in Kuwait. They were not allowed to transfer their residences into work residences either in the private or government sectors. Now, the ministry has allowed them to do so.
But the source affirmed that expatriates residing in Kuwait in accordance with Article 14 (temporary residence) cannot transfer their residences to the private or government sectors.
The source also confirmed that residences can be transferred from the private and government sectors into dependent visas provided the sponsor and the person concerned fulfil the necessary conditions for transfer.

Hirawi urged to send army: Christian militia leader Samir Geagea asked Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi to send his army into the Christian enclave to end fighting that has killed more than 900 people in two months.
"This move will be the only real, serious and practical way to end the war and division in Easi Beirut," Geagea, who heads the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, said on the LF-run Voice of Lebanon radio station. (Reuters)

India wishes success to PLO: India's president has said "we wish the people of Palestine every success in their struggle for a homeland, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative."
This came in a speech delivered by the Indian leader, Ramaswami Venkataratnam, during a banquet in his honour offered late last night by Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Welcome ceremony cancelled: The ceremonial welcome at London's Victoria station for the president of India was cancelled on Tuesday because of a security scare over a suspect package. It was announced.
President Ramaswami Venkataratnam had earlier arrived at Gatwick airport and was welcomed upon his arrival for a few days state visit by the Duke and Duchess of Kent on behalf of the British Queen Elizabeth.

Defective gene discovered: A medical breakthrough which could vastly reduce the number of children born with crippling and often fatal disorders was announced.
British and American scientists said they have located the defective gene which is responsible for the childhood disorder, spinal muscular atrophy, a muscle-withering disease affecting about one in 20,000 live births.
The discovery was reported in the UK journal, Nature, by Kay Davies of the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford and colleagues at Columbia University in New York. (Kuna)

Strongman's motion defeated: The central committee of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party yesterday defeated a motion by strongman Ali Salem Al Beidh to gain sweeping command of the country, party officials reported.
The decision came in an all-night session that ended at dawn.
Al Beidh, secretary-general of the ruling Marxist-style party since the civil war of 1986, had proposed doubling as chairman of the president, the leading executive post in the country, in a revamp of the three top posts in the country.

Government secrets: The US government says it is finally getting a handle on how many secrets it creates each year.
Its best guess is that the "top secret," "secret" and "confidential" stamps were wielded 6,796,501 times in the 12 months that ended Sept 30. That was a 35 per cent decrease from the year before, but the gains are somewhat illusory.

Libya urges to release hostages: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has urged Muslim kidnappers to release their hostages during the current Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the official Libyan news agency Jana said yesterday.
Jana, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Gaddafi called on Muslims to adhere to "the noble Islamic values which affirm the honour and humanity of man and the non-taking of innocent hostages."

Israel preparing for war

Tel Aviv possesses 200 N-bombs, refuses all peace initiatives: Arafat

PARIS, April 4, (Agencies): The chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat charged yesterday that Israel "is preparing for war" and possesses "200 nuclear bombs in addition to chemical and conventional weapons," in an interview in Tunis with the Italian news Agency Ansa.
In his interview with Ansa, Arafat, who will travel to Rome and the Vatican after meeting with Carter, asserted that Israel was stockpiling nuclear weapons and stalling the peace process.
"The Israelis are preparing for war," he said. "They have refused all the peace initiatives, UN resolution 161, the Palestinian initiative, the Franco-Soviet initiative, the 10-point Egyptian plan and even the Baker plan."

"This problem is very serious because the Israelis will have an immigration of around 300,000 people per year from the Soviet Union, the countries of eastern Europe and Ethiopia," Arafat said. "In the year 2000 Israel will have three million citizens, doubling its present population."
Israel's second experimental satellite is orbiting the earth every 90 minutes and will remain in space for about 60 days, Israel space agency officials said today.
"Until now, all functions are working as planned and we are very satisfied with it," space agency administrator Moshe Bar-Lev told Israel radio.
The 160-kilogram (352-pound) satellite Ofek-2 was launched yesterday by a three-stage rocket developed by Israel. Bar-Lev said the satellite had circled earth 16 times so far and that they are able to contact it every time it passed over the country.
The director of the space agency, Yuvali Neuman, said the Ofek-2 was lifted into space by the "Shavit" Hebrew for comet — launcher which was developed by the Israel aircraft industries.
"It has two stages that are big rockets and a third and last stage which is really a small engine used to put the satellite into its proper orbit," he told the Associated Press.
Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Arens called Saddam the obstacle to peace in the Middle East yesterday and urged nations to take the "necessary steps," to halt the threat of chemical weapons.

Arens said the arsenals of the Arab nations were "larger than all of NATO," but he feared more the stockpile of chemical weapons by Iraq, Syria and Libya.
Iraq accused Israel today of seeking to destroy Iraqi industry and science in order to maintain its military edge in the region and avoid making peace with the Arabs.
The PLO has backed Iraq's claim it was the victim of a western campaign to curb its might as a regional force able to tip the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of the Palestinians.
Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Arafat, said in a statement the campaign against Iraq was part of a "complicated plot to curtail the development of this country as the nucleus of power for the whole Arab nation..."
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plan.
"What can be the alternative?", the PLO leader asked. "In addition they are increasing their military power in all fields. They possess 200 nuclear bombs in addition to chemical and conventional weapons."
Arafat made it clear that in his talks with Italian leaders and at an audience with Pope John Paul II, his main aim will be to press for international action to coerce the Israeli leaders into resuming peace negotiations.
In particular, he hopes to win support for curbing the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and their settlement in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Bush may testify for Imelda

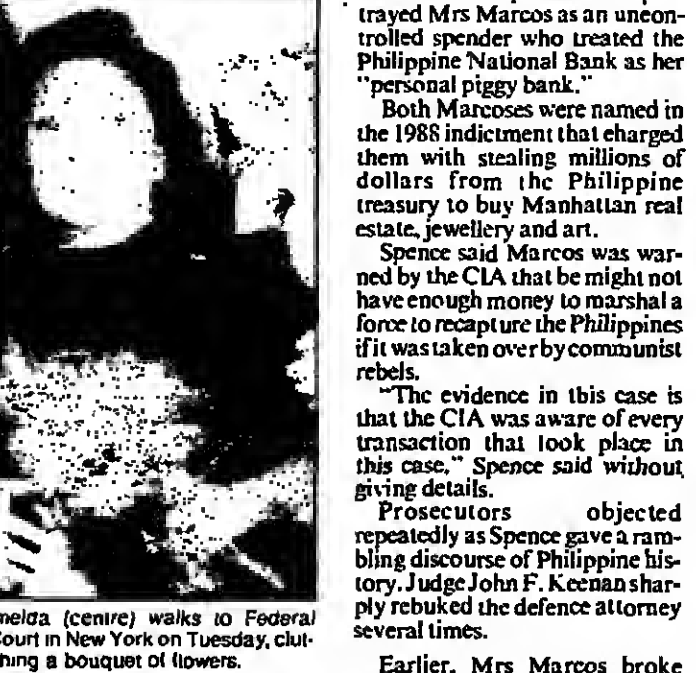
President, CIA were aware of all transactions

NEW YORK, April 4, (AP): Imelda Marcos' attorney claimed yesterday that President George Bush urged her husband to invest in US real estate and that the Central Intelligence Agency "was aware of every transaction" for which she is now on trial.
Gerald Spence said he plans to call Bush as a defence witness.
He made the comments in opening arguments in the trial of the wife of the late former Philippines leader Ferdinand Marcos and her co-defendant, Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.

The lawyer said Bush, then vice-president, was concerned about the Marcoses negotiating an oil deal with Libyan leader Muammar Kaddafi. The attorney said Bush suggested to Marcos during a 1981 meeting in Manila, "why don't you invest in American properties?"
The Marcoses, "who saw themselves as children of America," took the advice, Spence said.
In Washington, White House spokesman Steve Hart had no immediate comment on the attorney's statements.



Adnan Khashoggi (centre) walks through the subway in New York on Tuesday with his attorney (right) and a female companion on the way to his trial with Imelda Marcos on charges of federal racketeering. (Reuters wirephoto)



Imelda (centre) walks to Federal Court in New York on Tuesday, clutching a bouquet of flowers.



Prisoner-hostage
Hooded prisoners display an apparent hostage (no shirt) on the roof of Strangeways. One prisoner gestured to police that the hostage would be thrown off the roof. (Reuters wirephoto) See story Page 2.

UAE pardons 150 prisoners

ABU DHABI, April 4, (AP): President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyao today ordered the release of 150 prisoners to mark the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.
The official UAE news agency Wam reported that, along with the release order, Sheikh Zayed decided to underwrite any financial claims on the released prisoners.
The prisoners were from Abu Dhabi and its suburb of Al Ain. Zayed took the decision in his capacity as ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
Abu Dhabi is the biggest of seven emirates federated in the UAE.

Troops patrol Punjab town

Bombing kills 36

AMRITSAR, April 4, (AP): Paramilitary troops patrolled the Punjab town of Batala today after 36 people died in a bombing blamed on Sikh extremists and in an attack by an enraged Hindu mob.
People were confined to their homes by an indefinite curfew imposed shortly after yesterday's bombing.
Police said 33 people were killed and 68 were injured when the bomb exploded as about 100,000 Hindus celebrating the birth of the warrior-god Rama paraded through a crowded vegetable market. Most of the victims were Hindus, but some Sikh onlookers were among the dead and injured.
Immediately after the blast, two nurses at a nearby hospital and a Sikh policeman were beaten to death by angry Hindus, witnesses said.
The nurses' religion was not immediately known. The women were killed after a Hindu crowd became furious at finding no doctors on duty at the hospital, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity.
One of the most influential Sikh leaders in Punjab blamed the bomb blast on "oppressive state machinery" and said it was timed to prolong the federal government's rule in the state.

200,000 mourn death of Wani

SRINAGAR, April 4, (UPI): At least 200,000 Muslims chanting anti-Indian slogans gathered at a prayer ground yesterday to mourn the death of a militant leader killed last week during an encounter with security forces, witnesses said.
The mourners remained peaceful, however, throughout an hour-long service for Ashfaq Majid Wani, who died Friday when a grenade he was preparing to throw at security forces exploded in his hand after he was shot.
Meanwhile, another of the five people shot late Monday by security forces died yesterday in a Srinagar hospital, bringing to three the death toll in the latest flare-up of violence.
Police and hospital sources said the five people were hit by gunfire from a Central Reserve Police Force patrol at about 11 pm Monday outside a mosque in Baranulla, 30 miles northwest of Srinagar.
Two people died at the scene and the other three were taken to a hospital in Srinagar.
Police did not say what provoked the incident and provided no further details.
In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, curfew was relaxed yesterday from 7 am to 4 pm.
Most businesses remained closed, however, to mourn the death of Wani, a local commander of the separatist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, police and witnesses said.

Belgium king temporarily abandons throne over abortion law

BRUSSELS, April 4, (AP): King Baudouin stepped down temporarily today rather than sign into law a bill ending a 123-year ban on abortion in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Belgium.
Baudouin was suspended as monarch at his own request. After announcing the suspension, the government said it had enacted the abortion bill adopted last week without the royal assent required by the constitution.
The government then recalled the bicameral Parliament from its Easter recess for a joint legislative session tomorrow to restore Baudouin as the constitutional monarch of the nation of 10 million.

A constitutional expert called the situation "completely ridiculous," but the government said it was a legal solution to a complex problem.
Baudouin's official title is King of the Belgians. His powers are largely ceremonial, but under the constitution legislation without his signature cannot have the effect of law. In practice, the king plays an active role behind the scenes, consulting regularly with government ministers.
The king, a devout Catholic, balked at the abortion bill passed last Thursday by the Chamber of Representatives, the Parliament's dominant chamber. The body voted 126 to 69, with 12 abstentions, to allow abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy if the woman is deemed in a state of "distress."
Under the law, a doctor must determine that state. But opponents of the measure have said the term is meaningless and makes abortion available on demand.
The vote capped a 16-year period in which more than two dozen pro-abortion bills were voted down in the Parliament.
Until now, abortion was a criminal offence under a 1867 law that provided for prison terms of up to five years for offenders.
But enforcement of the ban had become spotty. Some

16,000 Belgian women a year had abortions with doctors listing the operation as "womb surgery."
The government's action today set off a debate about the suspension's constitutionality. There were appeals for the 59-year-old monarch to abdicate.
"It is time that we had a republic in Belgium. By withdrawing from his role as king he has removed all relevance of the monarchy to Belgium," said Raymond Dury, leader of the French-speaking socialists in the European Parliament. The party rules in coalition with the Christian Democrats of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.



King Baudouin

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'Reign of terror is over' in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, April 4, (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa, opening a new session of Parliament, said today the "reign of terror" in this tropical island was over.

The chief opposition parties disagreed with Premadasa's assessment, which was reminiscent of his independence day speech exactly two months.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, headed by former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and two allied parties boycotted the parliamentary meeting. The parties issued a statement saying their absence was in protest of "undemocratic actions of the government, the murders, abductions and violations of human rights and the limitless burdens heaped on the people by the increasing cost of living."

The three parties, which hold 73 of parliament's 225 seats, also said there was no point in attending the session since presidential speeches are not topics for debate.

Premadasa, whose United National Party has 124 seats, maintained the worst was over and the fear that had gripped the country had disappeared.

The President, who took office on Jan 2, 1989, said that last year "disruptions and destruction became the order of the day. ... The very foundations of democracy in Sri Lanka were threatened. The country was engulfed in a reign of terror unprecedented in our nation."

Last June it entered negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful of the Tamil guerrilla groups that launched a separatist insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government in 1983.

In the final months of 1989 it decimated the leadership of Sinhalese extremists trying to overthrow it.

On March 24 the last Indian peacekeeping troops, who had bogged down in a stalemate hush war with the Tamil Tigers, left Sri Lanka.

Premadasa asked all ethnic groups to prepare for sacrifices to help solve the problems of the Tamil minority.

More than 17,000 people died in the island's twin wars. At least 11,000 people were killed in the Tamil revolt in the past nine years.

More than 6,000 more died when Sinhalese extremists from the People's Liberation Front launched a violent backlash against the government for offering concessions to the Tamils. Government security forces and pro-government vigilantes unleashed an offensive against the Front, and for months that charred and mutilated bodies of suspected Sinhalese subversives turned up along the roads every morning.

Premadasa said the terror that gripped Sri Lanka, once a prime tourist destination, had cost the Indian ocean island \$272 million through property damage and lost revenue.

The President said the time now was ripe for reforms. He pledged to eliminate corruption in public life, lessen controls on government-owned corporations and offer improved climates for foreign investment.

4 killed

Bomb rocks Lahore

LAHORE, April 4, (AP) — A bomb rocked Pakistan's ancient eastern city of Lahore, yesterday, killing four people and injuring 22, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the mid-afternoon explosion in a congested marketplace in Lahore's old city, said a police officer, who refused to give his name.

The bomb, hidden in a cardboard crate, went off when a fruit bawker spotted the abandoned crate and tried to move it, officers at the scene said.

Hundreds of bombs have exploded in recent years in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, home to more than three million Afghan refugees who have fled the bloody civil war in their homeland.

Pakistani officials regularly blame the bombings on agents of Afghanistan's communist government, a charge Afghan President Najib routinely denies.

Bombings have been rare, however, in eastern Pakistani cities and towns such as Lahore.

One man was killed in a gunfight between police and striking transport workers in Karachi yesterday, police said.

Conservatives order councils to cut poll tax

It's Thatcher's final admission of failure, says Labour leader in Parliament

LONDON, April 4, (UPI) — A Labour Party leader said the government admitted failure by ordering local councils mostly controlled by Labour to cut poll taxes, the levy that has sparked sometimes violent reaction among Britons.

Environment Minister Chris Patten, whose office oversees domestic taxes, said yesterday order was necessary because the local governments were overspending and overburdening taxpayers.

But a Labour leader in Parliament,

Bryan Gould, described the order to cap taxes in some opposition-controlled areas as the government's "final admission of the poll tax's failure" and an effort to "shift the blame."

"If accountability is the key, why couldn't (the government) wait for the voters to pass judgement," he said. "They've given up trying to make the poll tax work, they've given up trying to help the poll tax payers, their sole objective now is trying to shift the blame."

The poll tax or community charge, under which every adult is charged the

same amount, was mandated by the central government to replace taxes based on the value of a taxpayer's property. Local councils set the fee.

Unlike income tax, or the property tax it replaces, the poll tax does not discriminate according to wealth, which has caused bitter complaints.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been a long-time opponent of property taxes, which fall most heavily on Conservative Party voters.

She advocated the poll tax as a way of equally spreading the costs of local

services among the 34 million people who elect local councils, and of curbing high spending by Labour authorities by making them more accountable to their constituents.

The plan, however, has backfired, with latest polls showing the Conservatives lagging behind Labour by between 19 per cent and 28 per cent of those questioned.

Patten, the minister in charge of taxation, was jeered by opposition members of Parliament as he read the list of 20

areas in which he was ordering the poll tax to be capped. Eighteen of the local councils are controlled by the Labour Party and in two, no party has overall control.

There are hundreds of local councils, but the 20 areas singled out yesterday had among the highest rates of the poll tax, which vary from £148 (\$241) annually in £573 (\$934). Rates are set according to local government budgets and the caps Patten ordered will also vary.

"It is little wonder that strong feel-

ings have been expressed up and down the country about the level of many charges," Patten said. "Charge payers are being asked to pay some 30 per cent more than domestic rate payers in 1989-90 and that is a position that is deplorable and an unacceptable burden on local people."

Labour leader Neil Kinnock accused Thatcher yesterday of being pleased by the riots and looting after a poll tax protest Saturday because the disorder diverted attention from the actual issue of the tax.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindus wash off sins: Thousands of Hindus immersed themselves in a tributary of the sacred Brahmaputra river near the Bangladesh capital on Tuesday in a ceremony aimed at cleansing themselves of sin and securing divine blessings.

Organized by the Hindu 100,000 Hindus, including visitors from India, Nepal and Burma, took part in what was the biggest Hindu festival in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government has renovated Hindu temples and set up camps for devotees at the festival site at Langalbandi, 30 miles (30 km) from Dhaka. (Reuters)

Dhaka storm toll 177: The death toll from the past nine days of tropical storms rose to 177 with the discovery of more bodies, and weather officials predicted Tuesday that at least 10 more tropical storms would batter Bangladesh in April.

Searchers sifting through the rubble of collapsed houses found eight bodies, while the bodies of three fishermen were recovered from a lake where their small boat had capsized, police said.

The fishermen drowned in Rangam lake in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, 220 kilometres (135 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said, speaking on condition of anonymity. (AP)

Boat capsizes, 50 feared dead: About 50 people were feared drowned after a boat capsized during a storm in northwestern Bangladesh, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The motor launch overturned Sunday night in the Jamuna river near Sirajganj, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Dhaka, the Bangladesh Times said.

The newspaper said about 30 of the 80 passengers swam to shore. As of Wednesday, five bodies had been recovered and the rest of the people were missing and feared dead, the Times said. (AP)

Jama Masjid renovations: Renovation work of the historic Jama Masjid of Delhi, being carried out by the National Front government at an estimated cost of Rs 5 million has created controversy as many Hindu organisations have objected to it.

The World Hindu Council (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) has protested to Prime Minister V. P. Singh for directing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to carry out renovation of major portion of the 16th century mosque. (Kuna)

Doi pledges democracy: The leader of Japan's Socialist Party, which recently abandoned its long-standing goal of a socialist revolution, called for a new principle of social democracy Tuesday and for more reforms in the party's policies.

"As the world's mainstream finds answers in the principle of social democracy, we must unite social democratic forces within Japan to pave the way for a realisation of social democracy in this country," party chairwoman Takako Doi told the party's annual convention, which began Tuesday in Tokyo. (AP)

China parliament closes: China's parliament closed its annual session Wednesday after approving a law under which much of Hong Kong's present system will be preserved under Chinese rule. The 2,700 deputies to the 13-day session of the National People's Congress also approved a law



Miss Universe delegates

Delegates for the 1990 Miss Universe Pageant are welcomed to Los Angeles after arriving April 2. From left to right they are Miss India Suzanne Subloak, Miss Turkey Janide Ates, Miss Japan Hiroko Miyoshi and Miss Korea Oh Hyun Kyung. The show is scheduled for April 15 at the Shubert Theatre in Century City. (Reuters wirephoto)

protecting foreign investors in China, a fifth straight deficit budget and a work report by Premier Li Peng which stresses that China will never yield to threats against its socialist system.

A resolution approved on the final day spoke of "historic victories" over the past year in furthering the socialist cause in China. (AP)

Illegal immigrants: Italy's deputy prime minister has proposed using the army and navy to help keep illegal immigrants out of the country.

Claudio Martelli, a socialist criticised by other parties in the governing coalition for being too soft on illegal immigration, told an Italian newspaper on Wednesday he would outline his plan in the cabinet soon.

In recent months Italy has reported numerous cases of illegal immigrants trying to enter through ports, mostly in the south, or by walking across northern land borders with France, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. (Reuters)

Ireland to abolish death penalty: Ireland is to formally abolish the death penalty and introduce automatic life sentences of at least 30 years for certain convicted killers, the government said in a bill published on Wednesday.

Capital punishment has been retained in Ireland for the killers of policemen, prison officers and foreign leaders and diplomats since hanging for all other killings was abolished in late 1956.

Irish Justice Minister Ray Burke published details of a bill to replace the death penalty with mandatory 40-year jail sentences which, with remission, mean that killers will have to spend at least 30 years in prison. (Reuters)

'Joy ends in tragedy'

Childbirth kills many Asian women

LAHORE, Pakistan, April 4, (Reuters) — The joy of motherhood ends in tragedy in South Asia more often than anywhere else in the world — with the death of the mother and often the baby.

Death in childbirth, all but unknown in developed countries, remains a huge problem in parts of Asia where poverty, ignorance, poor health care and cultural pressures to have a lot of children take a terrible toll on women.

Of the 500,000 women who die in childbirth each year around the world, about 300,000 are in India and neighbouring countries.

"Maternal mortality is too often the end result of a life diminished by discrimination from the moment of birth to early marriage," Dr Halifan Mahler, former head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), told a conference on Safe Motherhood last month.

"Indeed death may come as release for women who live in miserable poverty and whose full personhood is denied by custom, status and lack of access to education, medical care and self-determination," he told the gathering in the eastern city of Lahore.

Throughout much of the region sons are prized and the birth of a girl seen as a curse and a blessing. If she survives it will be on sufferance — her brothers will get the lion's share of food, education and medical care.

Male dominance and ignorance of health and family planning are fuelling a population explosion that will eventually give South Asia two of the world's three most populous countries.

India, with more than 800 million people, is second to China but could take over as most populous nation in the next 50 years.

Pakistan has one of the highest population growth rates at three per cent a year and is set eventually to become the third most populated country, a World Bank study said last year.

The average woman in South Asia gives birth to six children and probably is pregnant eight or nine times in her life, WHO says. One in every 38 dies from pregnancy-related problems compared with only one in 1,750 in the developed world.

Typically, girls marry very young and often have their first child before they are fully mature themselves.

These young brides are most at risk of dying in pregnancy, along with women who become pregnant again before they have recovered from a previous birth.

"I think that demand for family planning is much greater for women. They're tired of having children and they want them better-spaced but I am not sure they have the decision-making ability or power," Dr Nafis Siddiq, head of the UN Population Fund, said in an interview.

In overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan women often have little say in their lives. Their testimony in court is worth only half that of men. Not even one woman in five gets to learn basic reading and writing.

Government ministers acknowledge in private that education and family planning must be used to reduce population growth if the country is to progress economically, but they fear provoking a confrontation with Islamic fundamentalists.

Nusrat Bhutto, the mother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and a senior minister herself, astonished many in a speech to the conference in Lahore by raising the taboo subject of abortion — strictly illegal in Pakistan but widely practised.

Sadik, a Pakistani and the first woman head of a major UN agency, urged Benazir to make family planning a non-partisan issue so that bold steps could be taken.

Mahler, who is now head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said: "When it comes to countries like Pakistan, politics is the art of doing the impossible. Politicians have to take risks."

Awareness about safe motherhood has increased among health professionals and the public since the first big international conference on the subject was held in Nairobi three years ago.

Mahler and other experts say the safe motherhood campaign is now also seen as a powerful tool for promoting family planning.

"I think to talk about safe motherhood without emphasising family planning is rather a joke," Mahler said in an interview.

"If women are exhausted by physical toil but also have the threat of another pregnancy, then our chances of doing something are very slight unless we improve family planning."

Altair Bashir, a heroine of the Pakistani Movement to Help Mothers, has proven in the industrial city of Faisalabad that cutting through bigotry and ignorance can lead to real progress.

Since starting an emergency maternal ambulance service in 1988 and training for illiterate women who traditionally attend home births in the slums, the professor of gynaecology said her team had managed to cut maternal deaths by half.

Delicate talks continue

Strangeways prisoner dies

MANCHESTER, April 4, (AP) — The governor of Strangeways prison said today that he was pursuing "delicate and difficult" negotiations with a dwindling band of rebellious inmates.

One prisoner died yesterday of injuries suffered during a riot that erupted at a Sunday chapel service. Prison Governor Brendan O'Friel said he feared that another fatality may come to light as guards regain control of the facility.

This morning, fewer than a hundred prisoners still held control of the

He commended his staff for containing an "explosive" riot on Sunday, when he said more than 1,500 inmates were out of control.

About 20 "hard core of the hard core" prisoners were stopping other inmates from giving up, said Ivor Serle, a guard and chairman of the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association.

Serle said he understood 68 inmates were still on the loose in the prison. A spokesman for the Home Office, whose jurisdiction includes prisons, put the figure at under 40.

Thirteen guards were hurt by flying bricks, poles and other objects in an operation yesterday to regain control, Serle said. Six of the injured guards were hospitalised, he said.

Manchester-born Derek White, 46, died yesterday in north Manchester hospital from head wounds and chest pains. He was jailed while awaiting trial for alleged indecent assault and burglary.

Sex offenders, child molesters, convicted policemen, and Aids sufferers are among those subject to special loathing among prison inmates.

White was among a group of 50 such prisoners being held in a segregated wing when other prisoners at a religious service in the prison on Sunday overpowered guards and took their keys.

They used them to gain access to large areas of the prison, including the segregated section. They attacked White and other members of the group and in a general rampage through the prison started fires, smashed fixtures and broke through on to the roof.

Inmates' relatives say factors adding to tension at the 122-year-old prison include overcrowding, with up to three prisoners in cells built for one, insanitary conditions, and prisoners locked in cells for up to 23 hours a day.

With a prison population of 47,000, Britain has the highest number of inmates per capita in Western Europe.

The British Broadcasting Corp reported that rioters were apparently building some who wished to give up and leave the imposing red-brick complex.

It showed footage of one masked prisoner brandishing a knife and leading onto the roof a second man, who was stripped of the waist and had bound hands. Rioters threatened to throw their captive to the ground if police did not retreat, but the man was later led back inside, it said.

Haitian guard threatens to blow up jet

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, April 4, (AP) — A soldier carrying grenades and a submachine gun seized a New York-bound jet at Haiti's airport and threatened to blow it up yesterday if he was not flown to the United States. There were no passengers or crew on the plane, officials said.

Pvt. Pierre Gerald, an airport security guard, hoarded American Airlines flight 658 on Monday afternoon as it was preparing to leave for New York, said Radio Haiti Inter and an American Airlines spokesman.

The radio said the 30-year-old soldier, who had been in the Army two years, commanded the plane in an attempt to desert the army after he was reprimanded by an officer for alleged insubordination.

The station reported he was armed with grenades, and ordered passengers and crew members off the plane after seizing it.



Riot police check their protective gear before entering Strangeways. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nepal-India talks fail

KATHMANDU, April 4, (UPI) — Thirty-five thousand Nepalese demonstrated for democracy yesterday in Patan where over 300 trapped police are being fed by the crowds who have taken over the town in an escalating confrontation between the democracy movement and King Birendra's appointed government.

And Indo-Nepal talks failed to end a 13-month Indian trade boycott that is strangling Nepal's impoverished economy after India demanded that its troops be allowed to patrol Nepal's border with China, a source said.

A downpour ended the demonstration in Patan after it was addressed by local communist leader Siddhi Lal Singh.

Meanwhile the continued death toll in Monday's shootings by police climbed to seven and three of the bodies were cremated after police, doctors and relatives of the dead agreed to end a standoff.

At least 23 people have been shot dead by police and thousands arrested since Feb 18 when the banned Nepal Congress Party and seven leftist parties launched a democracy movement. It has turned into the biggest wave of political unrest since 1979 and rocked King Birendra's near-absolute rule over the mountainous South Asian nation of 19 million.

Some 3,000 people besieged the nation's hospital yesterday and refused to allow police to remove the bodies of three people shot by police. Doctors at the hospital, a centre of opposition activity, laid down in front of police vans at the hospital entrance and said the bodies would be handled over only to relatives.

In the end, an agreement was reached and relatives, police and medical staff took the bodies to a ghat, or cremation ground, for a ritual Hindu funeral.

Pro-democracy demonstrators also set fire to a bulldozer carrying police trying to enter Patan, where demonstrators have dug pits to block police vehicles.

Medical and other sources reported at least seven were killed and 15 wounded Monday in battles between protesters. But a police said a military hospital refused to say if they received any additional victims.

Witnesses said three died and six were seriously wounded Monday in Kirtipur, 3 miles (5 km) west of Kathmandu. The government said officers opened fire after a 400-strong mob tried to set fire to a police post.

Kathmandu, situated with pagoda-style Hindu and Buddhist temples, last morning looked like a battle-scarred city as police moved out again to quell demonstrations. The streets were littered with stones and still in place were the roadblocks erected by residents to prevent police vehicles from entering the town.

Cory pledges to reappoint Abad

Committee fails to confirm

MANILA, April 4, (AP) — A congressional committee today failed to confirm President Corason Aquino's choice for land reform secretary, but she vowed to renominate Filomeno Abad and force a showdown with her coalition's leading party.

If she secures the job, Abad will have the delicate task of fulfilling the desires of millions of peasants without alienating powerful landlords. His critics say he is a leftist opposed to industrial development.

The commission on appointments had been expected to reach a decision on Abad before beginning the Easter congressional recess on Friday. But the deadlocked commission suspended confirmation hearings, tantamount to a rejection.

Abad is the fourth choice for the land reform post since 1986. His predecessor, Miriam Defensor Santiago, was repeatedly rejected by the commission until she was replaced by Abad on Dec 31.

An informal survey of the 25-member commission showed 11 members opposed to Abad, 11 supporting him and two abstaining. Senate President Jovito Salonga, leader of Abad's Liberal Party, votes only to break a tie.

The commission had failed to reach a decision on Abad during six previous sessions. The constitution allows Aquino to reappoint cabinet members when congress is in recess.

Asked if she would do so, Aquino replied: "Yes, of course." If she reappoints Abad, the commission still must consider his nomination after the recess.

Opposition in Abad, a former congressman, is strongest in the pro-Aquino struggle of the Democratic Party, known by its Tagalog initials LDP.

Opponents accuse Abad of blocking industrial development because he tried unsuccessfully to stop the lease of government-owned land to Japan's Marubeni Corp. for an industrial park in Cavite province.

Abad said the land should have been redistributed to farmers under the agrarian reform programme, which Aquino has touted as the centrepiece of her administration.

During today's hearings about 800 people, mostly Abad supporters, jammed the session room. The unfurled banner that mocked the LDP as the "landlord dominated party."

Land reform advocates fear that if Abad is rejected, landlurd will use loopholes in the two-year-old law to escape losing their property to redistribution.

Philippine's military will beef up security at the US and Japanese embassies in response to communist guerrilla threats against American and Japanese personnel, the country's militia chief said yesterday.

But Gen Renato de Villa said at a news conference that it was possible the rebels would indiscriminately attack soldiers and government workers who travel outside the embassy compound.

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Lifestyle changes lower heart disease risk

BOSTON, April 4, (UPI) — Lifestyle changes like eating low-fat foods and stopping smoking can significantly cut death rates for men at high risk of developing heart disease, a decade-long study of more than 12,000 men confirmed yesterday.

Men who were advised to adopt healthier lifestyles — and who did so — had 24 per cent fewer fatal heart attacks, plus a lower death rate from all causes, than similar men who received no such advice, researchers said.

But the benefits of the changes took 10 years to become apparent, said Dr. Jeremiah Stamler, co-author of the study and a cardiologist professor at Northwestern University in

Chicago.

The study, called the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial or Mr. Fit, involved 12,866 men ages 35 to 57 whose cholesterol levels, blood pressure and cigarette smoking habits put them at high risk for heart disease.

The men were examined at 22 medical centres nationwide. Researchers placed 6,428 of them in a "special intervention" group in which they received counselling on ways to eat better, lose weight and quit smoking.

A second group consisting of 6,438 men received standard medical care for high blood pressure and other problems, but were not given advice about smoking or diets.

Tobacco responsible for 2.5m deaths per year

GENEVA, April 4, (KUNA) — The Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, has called for wide collaboration in the struggle against tobacco consumption.

Nakajima was addressing some 1,000 specialists from 70 countries participating at the seventh World Conference on Smoking and Health in Perth, Australia, according to a statement released here yesterday.

Recalling that the consumption of tobacco is responsible for more than 2.5 million deaths each year, Nakajima stressed that WHO was on the front line in the struggle against this bad habit which is the most preventable cause of ill-health in the world today.

"The tobacco or health programme is different from

most other WHO programmes," he said. "It does not work to protect human beings against nature forces, such as disease or catastrophe, but rather against other human beings peddling a dangerous drug."

The director-general criticized the tobacco industry for spending thousands of millions of dollars on advertising which presents a flattering, often dazzling, image of smoking — thus, he said, sustains an addiction which would otherwise die out.

The situation is worse in developing countries, where Nakajima said were unable to cope with the social and economic costs of further avoidable ill-health caused by tobacco.

After the study had been going on for more than six years, researchers found no significant differences in mortality from heart disease and all other causes between the two groups.

But the latest follow-up, taken after the men had been in the programme for an average of 10.5 years, found a sharply lower heart attack mortality rate for the special Intervention Group

and an overall death rate eight per cent lower than that of the "usual care" group, researchers reported in the journal of the American Medical Association. The study also found men in

the Intervention Group had 10 per cent fewer deaths from all forms of heart disease than the others.

Stamler said his results demonstrate that "coronary disease is a long story" that can be altered significantly only by lifestyle changes over a period of many years.

"We're talking about permanent improvements in habits, not temporary changes," Stamler said.

In addition to being told to stop smoking, the men in the Intervention Group were shown how to eat less food containing saturated fat and cholesterol, increase consumption of foods with polyunsaturated fats and if necessary, lose weight.

Abortion pill to be tested: doctors

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4, (UPI) — Doctors at three hospitals are seeking permission to start human tests of the controversial French "abortion pill," a move that could pave the way for the drug's availability in California.

The request to start tests of the drug RU 486 was disclosed at a county board of supervisors meeting, where a resolution was introduced urging the governor and the state legislature to pay for the tests.

The drug, currently sold in France by the firm Roussel Uclaf, works by blocking the hormone progesterone, causing a fertilised egg to be expelled. Unlike traditional abortions, a woman does not need to undergo the process in a medical clinic.

"If we in San Francisco could lead the way through this study to making RU 486 available throughout the United States, we will have done a great deal of good for our generation of women, as well as those who follow," said Carol Ruth Silver, a spokeswoman for Every Child a Wanted Child.

The hospitals wrote the proposal at the behest of Silver, an ex-supervisor who founded the organisation to bring RU 486 to the United States.

The French abortion pill is unlikely to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration for nationwide testing because of the Bush administration's opposition to abortion.

But testing in California could be carried out independent from the FDA under state legislation passed to help speed testing of Aids drugs. Since 1984, the University of Southern California has tested RU 486 on 300 women seeking abortions, but those trials were not designed to win approval to market the drug, a spokeswoman for the Population Council said.

Under the San Francisco proposal, RU 486 would be tested in trials involving 200 women at San Francisco General Hospital, children's hospital and the University of California at San Francisco.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: First Lady Barbara Bush said Tuesday that she no longer suffers double vision caused by Graves disease.

"Last week was the first week without seeing double," she told reporters at the White House. "I think the radiation worked. That's very good news."

She said she believes radiation treatment she underwent in January has affected the vision problem. Aides had said it would take two to four months before it would be known if the treatment was effective.

Mrs. Bush was diagnosed early last year with Graves disease, an immune system disorder that initially attacked her thyroid, causing dramatic weight loss. It caused eye irritation and double vision, especially in the morning.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: New Zealand's Rude Food Company has found that making money is simply a matter of putting the icing on the cake.

For between 65-85 New Zealand dollars (\$38.50) it will take a cake iced with a design explicit enough to turn birthday blouses blue.

"We do from hot lips to frilly knickers and all the bits in between," manager Paul Preston said on Wednesday.

Women are the company's best customers, partner Murray McClean said. "We even had one woman wanting one for her son."

LONDON: An unidentified Japanese bidding by telephone paid a record price of \$3.74 million \$6.09 million for a work by artist Marc Chagall in a sale at Sotheby's Auction House in London Tuesday night.

The price for the picture, "The Bride Under the Canopy," hit Sotheby's pre-sale estimate of between 3 and \$4 million (\$4.8 and \$6.5 million).

The 1949 painting by the Russian-born artist was the highest priced work in the sale of impressionist and modern art, which realised an overall total of \$33.76 million (\$55 million), (AP)

ST PETERSBURG, Florida: Siamese twins born last month connected at the chest and abdomen underwent separation surgery Tuesday.

Jacob and James Watkins went into the scheduled 10-hour operation at All Children's Hospital shortly before 11 am (1500 GMT). Doctors scheduled a post-operation news conference for Wednesday to discuss the results.

The twins, born Feb 28 to Rachel and Scott Watkins of St Petersburg, had already been diagnosed as good candidates for the surgery because they have separate hearts, lungs and kidneys. (AP)



Show off

Models for Calvin Klein show off at the 1990 Fall/Winter fashion show in New York on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

OSLO: Two Norwegians detained on suspicion of stealing cars had the surprise of their lives when prison wardens gave them civilian clothes and told them they were free to leave.

But their surprise was nothing compared to that of a friend who telephoned Oslo Kretsfengsel prison saying he was a policeman and telling the authorities to release them.

"It was meant as an April Fool's joke — I probably got the biggest shock when I saw my friends free on Sunday night," the man who made the phone call told the Norwegian daily Verdens Gang on Tuesday. He asked not to be named.

The prison's deputy director Are Høydal, told Reuters prison officials should not have released the two without written authorisation from the police. "There was a misunderstanding," he said.

White reported near death

INDIANAPOLIS, April 4, (AP) — Ryan White, the teen-age Aids patient whose battle for acceptance won hearts and better understanding of the disease throughout the United States, was reported near death yesterday on a life-support system.

His mother and sister remained at the bedside of the 18-year-old, who during his 5 1/2-year battle with Aids grew from an object of scorn in his hometown to an international spokesman for children with the disease.

"He's not expected to come out of it," said Carrie van Dyke, director of health promotion for the state board of health and a spokeswoman for the White family. Sandy Matthews Roob, a spokeswoman at Riley hospital for children, said yesterday morning that White remained in critical condition.

Increased

White, a hemophiliac who contracted Aids from contaminated blood products, increased awareness of the disease and helped reinforce the message that Aids cannot be spread through casual contact. His struggle was the subject of a cover story in the national magazine People and a TV movie.

Four years ago, White, who was diagnosed as having Aids at 13, was barred from school near Kokomo by officials who feared Aids could be transmitted to other students.

Even after a judge affirmed White's right to attend school, he and his family felt ostracized and moved to nearby Cicero, where they were welcomed by the community.

"Because of the lack of education on Aids discrimination, fear, panic and lies surrounded me," White told a teachers convention in 1988.

Support

"I was labeled a troublemaker, my mom an unfit mother, and I was not welcome anywhere... even at church, people would not shake my hand," he said.

He urged the teachers to "help me beat the odds and together let's educate and save the children of the world... by proper education, Aids can be a disease, not a dirty word."

The teenager was admitted to Riley hospital with a respiratory infection and was suffering from internal bleeding that was inoperable because of his hemophilia, which impairs the blood's ability to clot, officials said.

White's battle with Aids sent him to Washington to testify before Congress and to California for star-studded fund-raisers. He gained the support of Michael Jackson and other entertainers, including Elton John, who telephoned the family on Monday.

Last week, Ryan appeared with former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, at a function in Los Angeles for sick and disadvantaged youth sponsored by athletes and entertainers for kids. The organisation has established the Ryan White National Education Programme for Youth, an Aids education forum.

Parents shun tot with Aids

MADRID, April 4, (UPI) — Frightened parents yesterday kept their children away from a school in Malaga so they would avoid contact with a four-year-old classmate who has the Aids virus, authorities said.

Over the objection of parents, a court had ordered last week that Montserrat Sierra Martinez be permitted to attend her kindergarten class.

Parents reacted by refusing to send their children to the school. Only 26 of the approximately 200 pupils at Pinar Denis Belgrano School went to classes Friday, the day after the court order, and 32 attended Monday.

One of those, identified only as Sara, went to class with Montserrat, because, she said, she wanted to stay friends with her.



Tribute to trooper

Police motorcycles lead a six-mile motorcade on Monday around the city of Baltimore as officers and civilians alike pay tribute to slain Maryland trooper Theodore Wolf. The officer was killed on March 29, after stopping a car on nonbound I-95. (Reuter wirephoto)

US Senate approves clean air bill

WASHINGTON, April 4, (AP) — The Senate overwhelmingly approved sweeping air pollution controls on automobiles, factories and power plants yesterday after a decade of struggle over whether to strengthen federal clean air laws.

The new controls, which are estimated to cost the economy \$21 billion a year when they go fully into effect, were approved by a vote of 89-11.

President George Bush, speaking in Indianapolis in advance of Senate action, called it "a historic

vote" that would "affect generations to come as we work to build a cleaner, safer America."

Senate approval shifted the clean air debate to the House of Representatives, where a similar bill is being written by the energy and commerce committee. John Dingell, the panel's chairman, said he plans to have the committee vote by week's end and expects action by the entire house next month.

Differences in the Senate and House measures will then still have to be worked out.



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Hearing over gold booty starts

Treasure hunters vs insurance firms

NORFOLK, Virginia, April 4, (UPI) — A complicated legal battle over sunken treasure worth hundreds of millions of dollars began yesterday to determine who owns more than a tonne of gold discovered off the Atlantic Coast.

A group of Ohio researchers turned treasure hunters, who brought up the booty with the help of an underwater robot last summer, are pitted against nine insurance companies seeking a share of the loot.

Lawyers for the Columbus-America Discovery group argued yesterday that outside claims related to the 19th century shipwreck are untimely and unwarranted. The group seeks to show the gold cannot be claimed by insurers if they have no proof of covering items brought up from the ocean floor.

The case hit some legal shoals in its opening moments as a federal judge heard two motions to intervene, one from Columbia University and one from a private interest.

An attorney for the university, John Richardson, argued its researchers provided sonar work crucial to the treasure discovery. The university's attorneys also charged Columbus-America may have misrepresented their finding in the court documents to throw off other groups.

Attorneys for Columbus-America countered the opposing groups were trying to damage the group's credibility.

"There's been an effort in undisguised terms to attack the reputation" of Columbus-America, said Richard Robol, an attorney for the group.

Another Columbus-America attorney, Robert Trafford, said the other interests had made "a reverse oceanographic discovery" by making a claim to the treasure through work in the court clerk's office rather than at sea.

Engineer Thomas Thompson, one of the leaders of Columbus-America, estimates the find to be worth \$100 million to \$400 million. Lawyers say it could be worth as much as \$1 billion because a new chemical cleaning process brought many of the gold coins up in mint condition, which wildly inflates their estimated value.

Richardson suggested Thompson may have moved his original salvage effort into the 1857 wreck of the Central America by some 33 miles (50 km) after a federal judge issued a 1987 injunction protecting a different location.

The side-wheel steamship sank in a hurricane 160 miles (250 km) off the north Carolina coast while carrying prospectors and a major gold shipment.

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World News Roundup



Chai Ling

Chai Ling in Paris

Chinese fugitive narrowly escapes

TAIPEI, April 4, (Agencies): Chai Ling, the student leader who was one of China's most wanted fugitives, made several aborted attempts to flee the country before finally escaping to France this week, a leading newspaper reported today.

After 10 months on the run in China following the June 4 military suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators that she helped lead, Chai has emerged to the West with her husband, Feng Congde.

Both were on a wanted list of 21 student leaders sought by the Chinese communist authorities, who have labeled the pro-democracy protests a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

Chai, 23, made a dramatic appearance on Hong Kong television last night from an undisclosed location in the West to announce her escape.

Speaking in a near whisper, the haggard-looking Chai vowed to keep fighting for democracy and paid tribute to her compatriots who gave their lives for freedom.

Although the broadcast did not say where the appearance was made, sources say Chai is in Paris.

Chai's escape received massive coverage in Hong Kong's newspapers today, reflecting the widespread sympathy the pro-democracy students in Beijing have generated in the British colony that is to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

In Taiwan, newspapers printed her televised statement and picture on front page.

The mass-circulation China Times newspaper of Taiwan said the fugitive couple "tried several times to leave the border but failed to take action because of problems at the reception end."

They finally escaped "the tight network of Chinese public security personnel, went through a tough journey and setbacks, then left the mainland," the newspaper said in a report from a reporter it said had interviewed Chai.

The China Times report did not provide details of the escape, but in her televised appearance Chai acknowledged the difficulty she encountered.

According to the China Times, the couple fled Beijing by train shortly after the June 4 crackdown that left hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead. They soon separated and remained apart for eight months before rejoining two months ago.



Nazi murderer to face charges

One of the most-wanted alleged Nazi war criminals will be sent to West Germany to face charges of mass murder after avoiding justice for four decades, the government said Tuesday.

Former SS Capt Joseph Schwammberger, accused of killing thousands of people when he commanded Nazi labour camps in Poland, is expected to be extradited to West Germany from Argentina on May 3, the Justice Ministry said.

Schwammberger was arrested (right after the arrest) on Nov 13, 1987 in a remote part of Argentina, where he had been living as a fugitive for years. (Picture left shows Schwammberger in his early years. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Michelangelo's nudes'

VATICAN CITY, April 4, (Reuters): Art restorers said yesterday they could not remove veils and other coverings added to hide nudity in Michelangelo's Last Judgment frescoes in the Sistine Chapel because the originals had been destroyed.

The announcement was made after a week-long international symposium of art historians studying the first phase of a multi-million dollar restoration of one of the world's greatest art treasures.

The 10-year cleaning of the ceiling frescoes was completed last month and scaffolding has been built for a four-year project to restore a massive, 300-figure scene depicting the Last Judgment on the wall behind the main altar.

America

Ullmann testifies on war kids: Actress Liv Ullmann told a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday that every other movement of the second-hand signals the death of a child from neglect, disease or war.

"Every day in our world, 40,000 children die," the film and stage star told the Senate Labour and Human Resources Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism.

Ullmann spoke as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, better known as Unicef. The subcommittee was receiving testimony on the effects of war on children. (AP)

Supernova scanners: In a major astronomical development, new scanners have recently located five elusive supernovas (dying stars) in the cosmos, scientists reported on Tuesday in Washington.

The "Berkeley System," so named because the scanner is located at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, incorporates computer and huge mirrors.

Without human touch, the computers all night long guide a telescope with a 30-inch light-focusing mirror. The scope finds one of the 1,300 galaxies on its list, then focuses and records the image electronically — all in about one minute.

The computer compares this image dot by dot with an image made in the last observation session. If differences turn up and remain after checking, astronomers are warned the next morning that a new supernova may have appeared. (Kuna)

Soviet ambassador in US replaced: Diplomatic officials confirmed on Tuesday that the Soviet ambassador to the United States, Yuri Dubinin, will be replaced this summer by the Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister, Aleksander Bessmertnykh.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said no date was set for the transfer but it was expected to take place following the summit meeting in late June in Washington between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. (UPI)

Pointdexter jury locked up: The Iran-Contra jury that will decide the fate of John Pointdexter was locked up on Tuesday because two jurors were contacted by a newspaper reporter.

"I'm sorry to have to do this, but the irresponsibility of the press gives me no alternative," Federal Judge Harold Greene told the panel in a procedural session. The judge's order means that the jurors are not allowed contact with the outside world and cannot go home at night.

The special session was called after two jurors told the court they had been telephoned by reporters and asked about the case. (Reuter)

Another hearing set for Harris: A Federal Appeals Court on Tuesday set a May 14 hearing for convicted killer Robert Harris, whose latest appeal brought a last-minute halt to his scheduled execution in San Quentin's gas chamber.

If he had been put to death, Harris would have been the first prisoner executed in California in 23 years. Death penalty foes said that would have encouraged executions across the country.

The delay of Harris' execution drew angry criticism from state authorities, but relief from opponents of capital punishment. (Reuter)

Superpowers to discuss moon-Mars: The Bush administration was said ready to open talks with Moscow on a joint superpower moon-Mars mission.

But enthusiasts face large hurdles due to costs and residual wariness about Soviet intentions, analysts said in Washington on Tuesday.

A White House statement said the US-Soviet talks — which would later involve the US allies as well — will target "conceptual possibilities." It did not detail what those were.

Boosters of the joint moon-Mars project argue it would encourage more superpower co-operation. (Kuna)

Latin America

We'll return blow for blow: President Fidel Castro, comparing Cuba to the Biblical David fighting Goliath, said on Tuesday his country would fight blow for blow if a week-old electronic war with the United States escalated into a full-scale armed conflict.

"We are not going to stand around with our arms crossed... we will give blow for blow," Castro told a news conference in Havana attended by 236 Cuban and foreign journalists, 53 of them from the United States.

He condemned TV Marti, the US-founded news and entertainment channel being transmitted to the communist-ruled island since last Tuesday, as "a crude instrument of subversion and destabilisation." TV Marti has been jammed daily by Cuban technicians.

This is an electronic war between David and Goliath," Castro said. He added that any attempted follow-up military strike by the United States against Cuba's electronic defenses would unleash an all-out armed conflict.

Such a war would represent an "unpayable price" for the United States in terms of lost lives, Castro said. (Reuter)

Cartel stepping up offensive: The kidnapping of a prominent senator and a wave of violence sweeping Colombia's cocaine capital of Medellin appear to have opened a new chapter in the country's bloody drug war.

Gusman forced Federico Estrada Velez, a 63-year-old senator of the Liberal Party, out of his car when he stopped at a traffic light in Medellin on Tuesday morning, bundled him into another vehicle and sped off.

Estrada Velez, a former ambassador to Italy, had recently spoken out against dialogue with the drug barons, the police said.

No group had immediately claimed responsibility for the abduction, but police blamed the kidnapping and the separate shooting of seven police officers on the drug barons who opened an offensive against the authorities last August.

The drug-traffickers, known as the "Extraditables" because they are wanted in the United States,



The United States officially unveiled its not-so-secret 'Stealth' fighter plane on Tuesday. The little black Air Force jet built to avoid enemy radar detection and costing \$106.2 million each is shown at Tonopah Test Range. (Reuter wirephoto)

Stealth secrets out
Fighter costs \$106m each

WASHINGTON, April 4, (UPI): The Pentagon released yesterday the first details of its long-secret F-117A Stealth fighter, disclosing that 54 of the radar-evading bat-like jets are ready for combat and that they cost \$106 million each.

The F-117A is designed to penetrate dense-threat environments and attack high-value targets with pinpoint accuracy. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said, "It's especially tailored... for night missions."

Williams refused, however, to comment on a report that each F-117A can carry only one 2,000-pound (900 kg) laser-guided conventional bomb, and decline to say whether the fighters are nuclear-capable.

"The programme remains classified," Williams said. "It's able to carry the full range of tactical fighter ordnance. Beyond that, I don't think there's really much we can say at this point."

He said the Air Force bought 59 F-117As from the Lockheed Corp. under a secret \$6.25 billion programme that began in 1978. Three planes have crashed. The final two are to be delivered this fall, for a total force of 56.

The F-117As are assigned to the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing at Tonopah Test Range airfield, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. The wing is scheduled to move this summer to Holloman Air Force base, New Mexico.

The Pentagon released a fact sheet on the plane, along with an 8 1/2 minute silent video of the aircraft taking off, landing and refuelling in flight, and several colour photographs of the awkward-looking fighter.

The F-117A will be publicly rolled out for view on April 21 at Nellis Air Force base, Nevada.

Man arrested

Cocaine in legs

MIAMI April 4, (UPI): A man carrying packets of cocaine inside badly infected surgical incisions in his legs was arrested during a routine drug interdiction programme. The US customs service said yesterday.

Agents detained Roberto Julian O'Neil, 23, of Colombia, at the San Juan International Airport Sunday after they observed him walking with stiff legs. Mamie Pollack, director of customs in San Juan, Puerto Rico, said.

O'Neil had just arrived on an Iberia airlines plane from Colombia and was awaiting a connecting flight to Madrid. Inspectors were observing passengers as part of "Operation Transit Pigeon" programme to intercept drugs on their way from Colombia to Europe.

O'Neil was taken to a private room, where inspectors searched him and detected some bulges in his thighs, Pollack said. Agents thought the suspect had taped something to his legs inside his trousers.

But a closer inspection revealed that O'Neil had badly infected incisions covered by stitches and strips of adhesive tape, she said.

O'Neil was taken to the Rio Piedras hospital in San Juan, where doctors removed the stitches and discovered one-half pound (220 g) of cocaine under the skin on each of his thighs, Pollack said.

"In more than 20 years with the US customs service, this is the most bizarre form of drug smuggling I have ever encountered or even heard about," Pollack said.

threatened last Saturday to explode bug bombs in the capital every time one of their number was extradited.

They also pledged to execute politicians, judges and members of a prominent newspaper family. (Reuter)

Salvador truce: The Salvador government and leftist guerrillas on Wednesday accepted a series of United Nations-sponsored measures designed to restore peace to the Central American state.

The two sides, meeting for the first time in six months, signed a seven-point document prepared by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar foreseeing a UN-supervised truce to the 10-year war as a first step toward a negotiated peace.

"I have received assurances from both parties that there is a serious intention and good faith to seek to bring about such an end through negotiations," Perez de Cuellar said in the document endorsed by the two sides.

Africa

Kenyan lawyer fears detention: Kenya's leading human rights lawyer said on Tuesday he believed that he might be arrested.

But Gibson Kamau Kuria said that, although he had stayed away from his office on Tuesday to make contingency arrangements for his possible arrest, he would not go into hiding.

"I am not going to hide. If they want me, they can come to my office or home," he told Reuters in an interview.

Kuria said in a statement circulated earlier that two plain clothes officers from the police special branch had visited his office. "I believe they wish to interrogate me and possibly arrange for me to be detained," he said. (Reuter)

Zimbabwe journalist dies: A veteran Zimbabwean editor and nationalist died Tuesday at the newly-arrived US ambassador's first public engagement, hospital officials said.

Willie Musarurwa, 62, a leading figure in black nationalist politics since the early 1960s, collapsed at a lunch attended by Ambassador Steven Rhodes a few hours after the US envoy arrived to take up his first foreign diplomatic posting.

A hospital spokesman who by custom was not identified said Musarurwa evidently suffered a heart seizure.

Rhodes, 38, a black former investment banker from New Europe, flew to Harare earlier Tuesday from Europe and US officials said he accepted an invitation to meet with eminent Zimbabwean journalists over lunch at a Harare hotel hosted by the US Information Service. (AP)

Ugandan prison conditions lethal: Over 50 people have died this year because of poor prison conditions in western Uganda, according to a report published Tuesday by Kampala-based group, Ugandan Human Rights Activists.

The report, covering January to March this year, cited poor food, overcrowding and epidemic disease as the killers in the Ugandan jails.

It said some prisoners had died because prison guards were mixing building lime, used in cement, with the maize flour fed to prisoners. Guards bought the lime from road construction sites, the report said. (AP)

5 die in plane crash: Five people were killed when a light plane crashed in hilly country after the pilot apparently became lost in fog, police said Tuesday, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mountain rescue workers recovered the bodies of the five people on Tuesday. Their plane crashed Monday at Hermannus near Cape Town, police said. Rescue efforts were hampered by hilly terrain and poor weather, they said. (AP)

Mandela calls for
end to Zulu war

Time to lay down arms

CAPE TOWN, April 4, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela has called on his organisation and a rival black army to end bloody fighting in South Africa's Natal province that has complicated talks on the country's future with the white government.

But Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), continued to rule out a peace meeting soon with rival Zulu leader chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Violence in South Africa's townships and the brutal power struggle in Natal province between the ANC and Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement led South African President F. W. de Klerk on Monday to order more troops and police into black areas to quell unrest.

Mandela, speaking yesterday after a tour of trouble-spots in Natal province, said the Inkatha Movement should stand shoulder-to-shoulder with his ANC to fight Pretoria's apartheid policies.

At the same time he told 10,000 supporters in Edendale black township that in spite of their suffering it was time to lay down arms and start talking with the Inkatha.

Edendale, near the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg, is among black townships most ravaged by the power struggle.

"I hope that I will be able to speak to Mr Buthelezi soon, but I understand your position that it is not yet time to talk to him," Mandela said, tacitly bowing to pressure from local ANC leaders for him to shun Buthelezi.

Mandela cancelled plans on Monday for a meeting with Buthelezi, a former ANC colleague turned rival over the issue of how to confront apartheid.

The three-year-old Zulu war between the two organisations has killed more than 2,500 people.

At an earlier news conference, Mandela welcomed De Klerk's decision to send additional forces into the townships.

But he added: "A unilateral action on the part of the government without consulting with black leaders is bound to be ineffective, no matter the merits."

Mandela said he would put suggestions for ending the violence to De Klerk when he sees him in Cape Town tomorrow.

Saying nothing could be resolved under the present police leader, he appeared to suggest one demand would be for the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Andrius Vlok who he said had "no sympathy for black aspirations."

Mandela last met De Klerk on February 10, the day before his release after 27 years in prison for



A woman climbs through a barbed wire fence in Umhlati black township on Tuesday after riots erupted in the early morning. (Reuter wirephoto)

fighting white rule and a week after a 50-year-old ANC ban was lifted.

Police rejected Mandela's criticism of their efforts to quell the fighting and denied claims by the ANC-aligned United Democratic Front (UDF) and Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) that police were siding with Inkatha.

Cosatu and the UDF alleged in a statement that police ignored obvious Inkatha battle preparations, but clamped down on any UDF protest.

They said Inkatha Zulu warriors were armed with heavy calibre firearms they could not have obtained without police knowledge.

On Monday, Buthelezi said his Inkatha followers were suffering worst in the conflict. They had been dragged from buses and beaten or stabbed to death and one Inkatha member had been publicly castrated by UDF supporters, he said.

Security forces stepped up efforts yesterday to end fighting among rival black factions but Mandela said his supporters believe police are involved in the battles.

Heavily armed soldiers and police in armoured vehicles patrolled Edendale Valley, dubbed by some the "valley of death."

Makgawwe Mandela Amunah says she is disillusioned by the strong arm of apartheid that continues to grip the black majority in South Africa, despite the release of her father in February.

"We are prisoners in the land of our birth," Mandela Amunah told an overflow crowd Monday night at Simon's Rock of Bard College.

With different element

Cold fusion

POCATELLO, Idaho, April 4, (AP): Two Idaho State University physicists claim that they have reproduced a cold fusion reaction with a different element than those used in experiments by two chemists from Utah and England.

Physicist Professor Kenneth Faler said yesterday he and Stanley Vegors produced the reaction on March 13 by saturating a small rod of titanium metal in a bottle of deuterium gas cooled to minus 300 degrees Fahrenheit (-184 degrees Celsius).

The device produced bursts of neutrons, "presumably the fusion of two deuterons into as yet undetermined products," Faler said at a news conference.

A deuteron is the nucleus of an atom of deuterium, an isotope of hydrogen. In one type of fusion reaction, two deuterium nuclei fuse to form helium.

"This is a physical process in which deuterium gas stored in a bottle is absorbed into titanium metal at low temperatures and low pressure and as the metal heats up, it emits neutrons," Faler said.

"It appears we have produced cold fusion reactions in a different way," he claimed. "There are now two techniques."

The two researchers were spurred by reports a year ago that chemist E. Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and British colleague Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton had achieved sustained nuclear fusion in a seemingly simple experiment.

The Pons-Fleischmann device consists of a palladium electrode wrapped in platinum wire and immersed in deuterium oxide, or heavy water, then charged with electricity.

Pons and Fleischmann's seeming breakthrough was questioned when researchers in other laboratories had trouble duplicating their results. While many scientists say they doubt cold fusion exists, experiments continue around the world.

The Idaho state researchers observed neutrons using instruments at the school's low-energy accelerator facility laboratory.

Central American leaders demand destruction of Contra arms

MONTELIBAR, Nicaragua, April 4, (AP): The presidents of five central American countries have called on Nicaragua's Contra rebels to disband and surrender their weapons to a United Nations peacekeeping force by April 25.

The returning Contras' weapons should be destroyed immediately in the presence of observers from the five central American countries, the presidents said in a joint statement yesterday.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto read the statement at a news conference at the close of a two-day summit on peace in central America attended by the presidents of Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Leaders of the Honduras-based, US-supported Contras announced on Monday they would disband by April 18, five days before President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro takes office.

Several thousand rebels inside Nicaragua are expected to follow suit, rallying at predetermined "safety zones," in line with an agreement reached by the five presidents at a previous summit.

The demobilisation would end nine years of war against departing President Daniel Ortega's leftist Sandinista government. Chamorro won by a landslide in elections Feb 25.

The Contras have been reluctant to give up their weapons.

According to the agreement, the demobilisation and surrender of arms "should start immediately and end by April 25 at the latest."

The close of the summit was jarred by a strong earthquake that rocked the capital Managua and the entire Pacific coast area, but authorities said they had no reports of damage or casualties.

In Managua, thousands of people fled into the streets in panic, and the national legislature suspended its session. The downtown part of the capital was razed and 10,000 were killed by an earthquake measuring 7.1 in 1972.

The earthquake began just as Ortega and Chamorro were walking down the stairs

together from the meeting hall after the last session of the summit.

They both halted and waited until the earth stopped rocking, then walked down to a hall on the ground floor where a news conference was held with about 100 journalists.

Earlier, the Nicaraguan Defence Minister, Gen. Humberto Ortega, told journalists that he'd like to remain in the army after the Conservative government-elect takes over on April 25.

Ortega, brother of Daniel Ortega, is also one of the nine members of the Sandinista's national directorate.

"I'm ready to resign from the Sandinista Front National Directorate and our party if the new government lets me stay in the army,"

he told journalists at the central American summit at this beach resort 40 miles (64 kilometres) from Managua.

A transition accord between Chamorro and the Sandinistas says the army, which is now an organ of the Front, will become an apolitical, national military force.

Chamorro has said her defence minister will be a civilian, but she has left open the possibility that Ortega could become chief of staff. However, such a decision could create friction with the 14-party coalition.

The political Council of the United National Opposition said that it would not accept Ortega "in any position in the new government."

"We are very conscious of our commitment

to the Nicaraguan people, who won the right to be free with their vote, and as a consequence, it is unacceptable for the members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front to continue in their high level positions in the army, Interior ministry and the rest of the government structures," the council said in a statement.

The House of Representatives yesterday approved a \$2.4 billion spending bill that includes money President George Bush is urgently seeking for new democracies in Panama and Nicaragua.

The bill, with \$720 million for the two Central American nations, would mark the first use of a "peace dividend" from reduced Pentagon spending.

Accord on E. German coalition

CDU leader Lothar de Maiziere to lead cabinet

EAST BERLIN, April 4. (Agencies): East German political parties agreed to form the country's first non-communist government today, with Christian Democratic (CDU) leader Lothar de Maiziere as prime minister.

Martin Kirchner, party general secretary, said De Maiziere should be elected prime minister at the head of a coalition when the 400-seat new Parliament meets for the first time tomorrow.

"We are sure that the negotiations will be completed today and agreement reached on a coalition," Kirchner said.

But no party has an absolute majority in the Parliament, which once served simply as a rubber stamp for the hardline communist authorities quoted last year in a peaceful revolution.

The CDU needs SPD support to push through changes to the constitution and take East Germany down the road to unification with West Germany.

Main political groups agreed yesterday to try to resolve their differences over unification with West Germany.

The alliance for Germany held a crucial negotiation session with the Social Democratic Party, which finished second.

Party leaders said afterward they agreed on a framework for talks that they said they expected would result in a governing coalition by April 15.

They agreed to break up into small groups and discuss the issues that divide them, particularly the pace of reunification.

The talks, aimed at forging a "grand coalition" that crosses the conservative and liberal political spectrum, were held after East Germany's disparate political factions suddenly united this week to demand that West Germany give equal value to East German marks during the unification process.

The development follows the resignation of the Social Democrats' leader, Ibrahim Boehme, amid allegations he had links to the Stasi secret police during the era of hardline communist rule in East Germany.

The controversy surrounding Boehme had hampered the negotiations, and the Social Democrats said that Boehme, who denies the accusations, was stepping aside because the task clearing his name could hinder efforts to form East Germany's first democratic government.

Unification talks with West Germany are temporarily on hold while the newly elected East German parliament chooses new leaders to replace the caretaker communist government.

"Social Democratic officials began the meeting with alliance for Germany negotiators yesterday afternoon. Officials from the tiny Free Democratic Party also were participating in the coalition talks."

Rainer Eppelmann, leader of Democratic Awakening, one of three parties in the alliance for Germany, said he was hoping for a quick agreement "so people in East Germany know where they stand."

Just hours earlier Markus Meckel, who has temporarily replaced Boehme as head of the Social Democrats, announced the party had agreed to open negotiations with the alliance on forming a coalition government.

■ Ousted communist leader Erich Honecker's health has worsened and he was moved yesterday to a Soviet-run sanatorium, a West German newspaper reported.

A Soviet military convoy escorted the former leader and his wife, Margot, from the Parish House outside East Berlin where they had been staying to the nearby sanatorium, the newspaper Bild said.

The move was requested by Honecker, Bild reported. It said without attribution that the 77-year-old Honecker's health has further deteriorated.

The move came slightly more than a week after Honecker and his wife were forced to abandon their new home.

They moved from the Lutheran church Parish House on March 23 to a better-equipped government residence near Neuruppin, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.

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The announcement was a major surprise after coalition talks between the CDU-led alliance of centre-right parties and the Social Democrats (SPD) had initially stumbled.

But yesterday the parties made early progress in the first formal round of talks. They said they expected to form a government by the middle of this month.

The approval of cabinet posts would be handled by a second meeting of Parliament on April 11, Kirchner said. The CDU won by far the most votes in East Germany's first free elections on March 10, with the SPD coming a poor second.

Reformer elected Bulgaria President

SOFIA, April 4. (AP): Parliament yesterday elected reformer Petar Mladenov to a newly created temporary presidency and adopted legislation permitting multiparty elections in June.

In an apparent effort to distance themselves from their hardline past, communists yesterday also renounced their communist party to Bulgarian Socialist Party.

The party's name change was announced by Stefan Prochev, editor of the former Communist Party daily Rabotnichesko Delo, or workers' affairs, which changed its name Monday to the Duma, or the word.

Terms of the first free, multiparty elections in Bulgaria since World War II, and Mladenov's election to the new presidency, were agreed to last week between the ruling communists and the opposition.

They were ratified by Parliament yesterday along with constitutional amendments abolishing all references to "communism" and "socialism," which serve to anchor political pluralism, the state BTA news agency reported.

Mladenov, 53, had served as the communist president of the state council that was formally dissolved yesterday. He was unanimously elected to the new temporary presidency, and will be replaced after the newly elected Parliament approves a new constitution.

In his acceptance address, Mladenov said the guaranteeing of the peaceful transition from totalitarianism to democracy "is the most important task at this stage," BTA reported.

He said Bulgaria's first test of democracy would be the June elections.

"People should be provided with conditions to have their fair and open say, proceeding from their own aspirations and acting on their own free will on the future they prefer for (Bulgaria)," the official BTA news agency quoted Mladenov as saying.

He also said that implementation of a radical economic reform would require "tremendous efforts."

"Years of complications, strain and difficulties lie ahead, but there is no other way out. We would not delude ourselves with false hopes of miracles," Mladenov said, according to BTA.

As in neighbouring Romania and other East European countries, the state council under the communists acted effectively as the legislature between infrequent sessions of the country's rubber-stamp parliament.

Mladenov is relatively popular according to recent polls. He is considered responsible for ousting long-time hardline communist leader Todor Zhivkov in a leadership reshuffle last November when he became party leader.

After taking over the party leadership Mladenov elevated reformists to top positions and began a dialogue with the opposition moving toward the transition to democracy before relinquishing the post on February.

The multiparty legislation adopted yesterday by Parliament was the subject of three months of arduous talks between the communist and the democratic opposition.

■ Yugoslavia: Some 30 ethnic Albanian children were hospitalised yesterday in troubled Kosovo province, again claiming symptoms of the mysterious poisoning that last month threatened to set off ethnic clashes.

The state Tanjug news agency and sources said the children were from the town of Podujevo, 30 kms (18 miles) north of the provincial capital of Pristina. They complained of lung and skin irritations and claimed they were poisoned.

■ Romania: Witnesses testifying at the trial of Nicolae Ceausescu, the brother of Romania's deposed communist dictator, said yesterday that he had twice shot at protesters.

Constantin Chirea and Daniel Savin, two policemen who were present when the defendant allegedly shot demonstrators in front of the Intercontinental Hotel on Dec 21, said they saw their former boss fire into a subway station where some of the protesters had fled.



Landsbergis (left) chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet shown talking with deputies. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shevardnadze in US

'Honest talks main weapon'

WASHINGTON, April 4. (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, in Washington for meetings with top US leaders, says "honest dialogue" is Moscow's main weapon in dealing with the independence crisis in Lithuania.

Speaking to reporters at Andrews Air Force Base yesterday, Shevardnadze said his government believes that it is important to maintain the integrity of the Soviet constitution and Soviet laws in the face of the challenge represented by the Lithuanian independence movement.

Declaring that Lithuania also approved the Soviet Constitution, Shevardnadze added: "We are going to act within the framework of our constitution, within the basic law of our country."

"Our main weapon in resolving any issue... is dialogue, honest dialogue," he said and added: "And this is the dialogue we are looking forward to with the Lithuanian people and the Lithuanian leadership."

Meanwhile, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Soviet actions in Lithuania will be "at the top of the agenda" when Shevardnadze meets Secretary of State James A. Baker today. He is set to see President George Bush on Friday.

The United States has repeatedly called on the Soviets not to use coercion, intimidation or military force in Lithuania.

Shevardnadze assured Baker during a meeting in Namibia last month that the Kremlin would do its utmost to avoid using force to suppress the independence movement in Lithuania.

Baker subsequently sent a message to Shevardnadze and Bush wrote Gorbachev. Neither has received a reply, but US officials said that was not a cause for concern.

Busb told reporters that his Friday meeting with Shevardnadze "will be the change... to see how that message went down in Moscow."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mossad wanted Bull dead: The son of murdered Canadian ballistics expert Gerald Bull says his father told him that the Israeli Mossad wanted to kill him.

Michel Bull said in an interview with the Montreal Gazette that his father "told me that a friend of his who had contacts with the Mossad had warned him that they were after him."

The friend in question might have been an Israeli with whom Michel Bull worked on artillery systems during the 1970s. (Kuna)

Racism summit opens: French Prime Minister Michel Rocard opened a multi-party summit on racism on Tuesday with an immediate concession to the Conservative opposition, whose voters are drifting to the ultra-right National Front.

At the start of evening talks in Paris, the Socialist premier said he would host a similar forum on May 16 to debate the problems of immigration and integration.

The centre-right opposition parties, the RPR and UDF, had criticised the government for failing to make a clear link between the spread of racial hatred and the high number of poor Third World immigrants in France. (Reuter)

UK, US reject Unesco: The United States and Britain have decided not to rejoin Unesco because of a continuing dispute over its management and political bias, officials said Tuesday.

The United States withdrew from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 1984 to protest what it saw as Unesco's politicisation and anti-Western bias.

Britain quit Unesco in 1985, soon after the United States and Singapore. The three countries made up about one-third of the agency's budget.

"My understanding is... that the time is not right for the United States to reopen the question of renewing its membership in Unesco," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. (AP)

Drug money laundering: Switzerland explained to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference Tuesday in Nicosia, Cyprus, how drug money is laundered and called for stricter international controls.

A memorandum presented by the Swiss group said, "Honest and corrupt businessmen alike appreciate the advantages of the Swiss financial centre, among which are high quality of services as well as political and judicial stability."

The image, which is widespread in the public, of the courier arriving in Switzerland with a suitcase filled with banknotes is indeed part of the truth," the memorandum said. (AP)

Lockerbie probe: Scottish police Tuesday were questioning Mohammed Abu Talb, suspected in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which killed 270 people, a newspaper reported in Stockholm, Sweden.

Abu Talb's lawyer, Sven-Erik Sjogren, was quoted in the Dagens Nyheter as saying his client could face questions about his travels before the Pan Am explosion which could link him to the bombing.

Abu Talb was sentenced to life in prison last December in connection with separate bombings in Denmark and the Netherlands in 1985 and 1986.

Hawke cabinet sworn in: Prime Minister Bob Hawke began a record fourth term in office Wednesday with his heir apparent, treasurer Paul Keating, given the added duties of deputy prime minister.

The 60-year-old Hawke, first elected prime minister in 1983 and winner most recently by a narrow margin on March 24, has said he intends to lead his ruling Labour Party through the three-year term and into a potential fifth campaign. (AP)

3 Italians held in art theft: Zurich police on Tuesday announced the arrest of three Italian nationals who they tried to pick up 2 million Swiss francs (\$1.3 million) in ransom demanded for the return of a stolen painting by Vincent van Gogh.

The canvas, "Wheatfield With Sheaves," which had vanished from a strongbox in a warehouse of a moving company on March 12 was recovered undamaged, said police spokesman Marcel Frieden. It was valued at 2.5 million Swiss francs. (AP)



Ho Tak wins

In one of two elections to fill vacant National Assembly seats, an opposition Democratic Party candidate upset the candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, officials said Wednesday.

In vote counting completed early Wednesday, Ho Tak, (being killed by his supporters), of the Democratic Party, received 37,446 votes, or 53 per cent of total ballots cast in the Unseung-Chuncheon district in the central province of north Chungcheong.

Min Tae-Gu, of the ruling party, received 31,178 votes. In the other by-election in Taegu, ruling party candidate Moon Hi-gap was leading Democratic Party candidate Baek Seung-hong 17,561 to 13,765 as of 11 am Wednesday with about 40 per cent of total ballots counted.

Kim Hyung-hun, an independent, was trailing at 1,503 (Reuter wirephoto)

Seoul agrees

Pullout of US troops

SEOUL, April 4. (AP): South Korea has formally agreed to a US plan to cut back by 1993 7,000 of the 43,000 American troops stationed here, the Defence Ministry announced today.

The ministry said the two countries also have reached basic agreement on other pending military issues, including changing their joint command system to give South Korea more control over its military.

"We have reached full agreement on a gradual US troop withdrawal, which will initially affect 7,000 noncombatants," a ministry statement said.

The announcement had been expected since February, when US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney disclosed plans to shut down three of the five US air bases in South Korea in a cost-saving measure.

Breakthrough seen in Lithuania crisis

MOSCOW, April 4. (UPI): A close associate of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met with Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas in an apparent breakthrough in the crisis over the Baltic republic's drive to independence, Lithuanian lawmakers said.

"There are consultations and conversations," Deputy Egidius Biekas said reporters yesterday. "Don't call them negotiations."

Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev, a confidant of Gorbachev, met with Ozolas and two Lithuanian legislators, Biekas said. He did not reveal where the meeting was held.

"Nothing was accomplished," said Loretta Stanulis, commenting yesterday's talks between a three-man Lithuanian delegation and Yakovlev.

"The main goal of these informal talks was to decide when to begin formal negotiations," Stanulis said. "But they ended without any decision."

However, Lithuanian sources said the Lithuanian delegation, headed by deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas, would meet Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin for further talks later today.

Also yesterday, the Soviet Union restricted the one border crossing between Lithuania and Poland, which has supported the republic's campaign for independence, Polish border guards said.

The guards said Soviet authorities were only allowing transport trucks and a few Poles with visas to cross through the checkpoint at Ogdroniki, Poland. Normally, 3,000 Poles a day cross the so-called bridge of friendship checkpoint with visas to visit family and friends in Lithuania, which is

comprised of territory that had been Poland's before World War II.

The apparent breakthrough came after Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis in a speech to his parliament on Monday said the embattled Baltic republic may be willing to delay establishment of full independence.

Landsbergis's statement was a retreat in Lithuania's three-week showdown with Moscow following the March 11 declaration of independence by its new nationalistic-controlled parliament.

Landsbergis told deputies, "the legal act of independence proclaimed by the Supreme Soviet does not mean the immediate establishment of independence on the territory of the republic," the official Tass news agency said.

In an earlier telegram to Gorbachev, Landsbergis

said Lithuania "has no intention of harming the policy of perestroika," the Soviet President's drive for economic and political reform.

In Washington, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told reporters yesterday, "our main weapon in resolving issues is dialogue — an honest dialogue. This is what we are looking forward to."

Shevardnadze arrived in Washington for three days of pre-summit talks with Secretary of State James Baker that were expected to include discussions on Lithuania.

The crisis in Lithuania has steadily grown since the Sajudis nationalist movement headed by Landsbergis gained control of parliament in Feb 24 elections, chose him as the republic's president at its first session March 10 and declared independence the next day.

Gorbachev's spokesman holds briefing

MOSCOW, April 4. (Agencies): Mikhail S. Gorbachev's first presidential spokesman, Arkady A. Maslennikov, held his first briefing yesterday, beginning what has been an institution at the White House for years.

"First of all, I'm not a Fitzwater, I'm Maslennikov," he said referring to his US counterpart, Martin Fitzwater, as he stood in front of a large portrait of Lenin.

Maslennikov, a 58-year-old former foreign correspondent for the Communist Party daily, Pravda, told correspondents about the work of Gorbachev's new presidential and federation councils and answered questions about the Soviet president's policy toward the breakaway Baltic republic of Lithuania.

He promised regular, but not daily, briefing geared to particular topics, and said Gorbachev himself would appear from time to time for news conferences.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Draftees to form army support staff

GCC manufacture of weapons studied

THE military obligatory service in Kuwait is a pioneer experiment, though the application of the service has been instituted with some delay, the former Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army, Lt. General Abdullah Farraj Al Ghanim said.

The official said that the aim of the military service is to form a supportive army for the full fledged Kuwaiti Army and added

that the command of the army has plans to establish a reserve force comprising Kuwaitis who finish their military obligatory service.

On the issue of women conscripts, he said that there are some women employed in the secretariat, computer services and medical fields. However, he said that it is not opportune at this time to involve women in the

military staff for fighting or conducting sensitive military operations. He added that women should be trained in the art of manning weapons as back-up in the forces.

Speaking as the secretary of military production in the GCC states, Ghanim said that the concept of manufacturing weapons and ammunition in the GCC states was discussed and studied.

Officials have been advised according to findings of the study not to make haste, as weapons production is a highly complex and vital project. However, he said that the GCC states can start manufacturing training ammunition and light weapons and from there on expand the manufacturing to more sophisticated technology.

He also called to unifying

weapons used by the armies of the GCC states and added that joint maneuvers of the GCC states should be carried out by land, air and navy forces.

Ghanim complained that the number of youths who join the Kuwait Army are negligible and said that the army is in need of every able bodied youth, including those with scientific qualifications.

Co-op prices to be controlled: Swarej

No increase during Ramadan

THE chairman of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Saad Abbad Al Swarej has said that the union is currently preparing a study aimed at developing the existing control over all commodities available at the co-operative societies, in co-ordination with the competent authorities.

A recently-issued circular required all societies not to accept any price increases made without previous notification from the union, the official said.

Circular

He said that the existing crowds of customers raising the demand for commodities commonly sought during the holy month of Ramadan is caused by the abundance of these items at these societies, stressing the co-operative movement's concern is to make available all consumer items and commodities during this period.

He told a local daily that all items under the union's control undergo no price increases due to the pegging of these prices by the union's pricing committee. He

added that no increases could be endorsed by the committee, at least not during the month of Ramadan.

He said that dealers, on the other hand, offering to reduce the prices of their items will be responded to by the union immediately and a special circular will be issued to circulate the price drop among all operating co-operative societies.

The increase in consumer demand for commodities is always prepared for by the societies before the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

This is done in co-ordination with the union's supply committee, and the packaging and bottling centre in a bid to meet all consumer needs during this period, Swarej said.

He added that the practice by some societies of direct import of supplies was not a new phenomenon, and was confined to certain types of fresh vegetables and consumer articles in high demand.

The subsidy offered by the government to certain types of

consumer articles is a decision made by the relevant government officials and that the reduction or resumption of this subsidy changed with the circumstances and changes of the relevant government strategy.

He pointed out that the Consumer Protection Department has issued a number of rules to govern any illegal increase in commodity prices, in order to protect consumers against haphazard individual price increases. Consumers who believe that the prices of certain commodities have undergone unjustifiable increases are urged to co-operate with the department and report these violations so that the necessary action could be taken.

The union, the official said, has a special team of inspectors who pay regular visits to co-operative societies to check the validity of assorted items and those stored in the societies warehouses, pointing out that some societies have their own inspectors who regularly carry out routine check of the items on display.

66 licences granted to citizens for haj convoys

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Pilgrimage and Mosque Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al Fares was quoted as saying that the ministry had given licences to about 66 citizens to arrange for pilgrimage convoys during the current year.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that about 42 convoys will go to Makkah Al Mukarrama via Madina Al Munawara while another 24 convoys will go direct from Kuwait to Makkah Al Mukarrama.

He disclosed that 12 citizens were being given the licence for the first time and this measure was taken in response to the country's exceeding needs for pilgrimage convoys. He added that the ministry had decided to increase the insurance for pilgrimage convoys from KD8000 to KD10,000.

The official said that the Kuwaiti convoys will go through two routes through Al Salemi Area and will be divided into 16 groups. The convoys that will go to Madina will leave Kuwait between June 12 and 15 while the other convoys who go direct to Makkah will leave during the period of June 20 to 23, 1990.

Charges

In a related development a local daily reported that a number of pilgrimage convoy owners had agreed to unify pilgrimage charges this year, provided that the unified charge will include all accommodation and full boarding expenses.

The daily quoted the chairman of the committee grouping 31 convoys Lafi Al Orair who had unified its charges as saying that this was taken in the light of retreat in the pilgrimage charges. He added that owners of the relevant convoys were in agreement that the best way to avoid such a retreat is to unify the charges and in the meantime to enhance the services to be extended.

He disclosed that the unified charges were as follows: Suburban van of seven passengers KD350 for each passenger, bus KD300, micro-bus KD280, GMC vehicle of 40 passengers KD260. But for pilgrims who would like to go by their own car to Makkah and Madina and registered with convoy will pay the KD250 and those who would like to go by air to Makkah via Jeddah should pay KD200 and those who would like to go to Madina and Makkah will pay KD250.

Meanwhile, Orair confirmed the keenness of the owners of 31 convoys to extend the best services to the pilgrims to be represented by ambulances and good quality of transport vehicles.

16,000 fresh graduates could face unemployment

EXISTING factors indicate that Kuwait's Civil Service Council will be pressed hard to provide employment to 16,000 graduates during the next two years, a local daily reported.

The job scenario becomes further complicated when one views the fact that graduates strive to obtain office jobs rather than those in the field. Presently there are a lot of graduates who currently work in the computer field, although they have graduated from the faculty of arts, the daily said.

It added that there are about 8,000 students studying currently at the university and who are expected to graduate during the next two years. This figure will coincide with an identical number of students from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet).

With the recent decision to equate grades of the university and those of Paaet, the authorities will be faced with another problem, the daily noted.



Operators at the overseas calls department.

MOC officials admit to phone eavesdropping

Ulterior motives denied

OFFICIALS and employees of the Ministry of Communications, admitting that they resort to eavesdropping, explained that this is resorted to only with the aim of ensuring that telephone calls are operating at optimum efficiency and denied any ulterior motives.

Controller of overseas calls at the ministry, Fahd Al Fahd said that there are several parties who have access to telephone lines and listen on calls and underscored the fact that there is no country that does not use this

method for one purpose or another.

However, in Kuwait, the official said that such eavesdropping has been restricted to senior officials only — usually the shift incharge and deputies. In a further move designed to reduce the misuse of this facility, "tapping devices" have been reduced from 114 to only four.

Punishment
Fahd said that he does not claim that ministry employees are innocent of intentional eavesdropping, but these instances are

few and called on aggrieved parties to report such incidents and assured that strict punishments will be accorded to those found guilty.

However, Fahd called on subscribers to check the quality of the commercial telephone sets as in many instances it was found that the telephone sets, particularly when the set is of sub-standard quality. Nevertheless, he said that subscribers should specifically mention the date and time that they suspected their line was tapped.



Assistance appeal

The mayor of Beit Sahour, in the Israeli occupied West Bank, Henne Al Alrash (left), and the accompanying delegation are in Kuwait to appeal for urgent assistance to their village which faces starvation at the hands of Israeli authorities.

AMC undertakes projects in Africa

37 countries benefit from charity

THE chairman of African Muslims Committee (AMC) Dr Abdul Rahman Al Sumait has said that the committee built 680 mosques, 960 offices and Quran schools and 38 health centres in 37 African countries. He added that AMC dug 600 underground water wells and hundreds of surface wells in the dried areas in Africa. The committee is sponsoring and maintaining 8,500 Muslim orphans and thousands of refugees. School tuitions of 55,000 poor pupils in Africa, were also defrayed by the committee, the official said.

Quran

He added that AMC is an Islamic institution that tries to offer services by carrying out new charitable projects. The committee is not involved in politics and serves the Muslim community in village or city by building schools, health centres and mosques.

The workers in the committee are volunteers with only 6 regular employees working in the AMC's main office in Kuwait (full time) beside 19 volunteers and some employees who work part-time.

The committee distributed about 2 million copies of holy Quran and 4.5 million Islamic books in different African languages. It also organised more than 114 training and qualifying courses for teachers and imams of mosques at African villages including medical courses. The committee distributed more than 70,000 tonnes of foodstuffs and medicine as well as hundreds of thousands of clothes. We also make monthly payments to 1,850 teachers and imams in Africa. He added that hundreds of thousands of Africans embraced Islam as a result of efforts of teachers and imams although priority is not given to call for Islam among non-Muslims. "We focus on teaching African Muslims their correct Islam according to instructions of Holy Quran and Sunnat," Sumait said. He added, "We succeeded to reach many far areas in which isolated Muslims are living. Most of the people are illiterate and do not know the right Islam and are close to paganism than to Islam. We gave these people special concern to return them to Islam. We also organised tens of camps and conferences for women and youths beside establishing several cultural and sporting clubs."

Banks should improve: officials

THE chief director general at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait Mohammed Al Yahia has said that state authorities co-operated with the private sector to apply proposals to develop the national economy that were included in the report of the joint economic committee.

He added that some of these proposals will have positive reflection on the local banks by solving the problem of debts and deficit in the banks and activating the economic sectors. This will urge banks to develop their services and administration to face expected challenges and to compete with foreign banks the official said. But he added that present economic and political reforms in East Europe will bring new risks to the international economy.

Competition has also increased among the commercial banks in the Gulf area and banks in the Arab area in general should co-ordinate efforts to have a firm stand against the international challenges, Yahia said.

The chairman of Bank of Kuwait and Middle East Ali Al Bader said that local banks should continue in their policies to guide spendings and increase efficiency of their staff and performance and should develop their training programmes as well. The local banks are required to carry out the recommendations of the report of joint economic committee to face challenge during present decade, the official commented.

The well-known Kuwaiti economist Jassem Al Saadoun said that local banks should solve two main problems, the deficit in their financial abilities and the weak administrative staff.

The local banks, except the National Bank suffer from deficit that prompts the Central Bank to intervene in all details of their duties and thus, these banks to develop their structure to be more independent from Central Bank.

He added that administration of local banks did not change despite the crisis that faced Kuwaiti banks during the last few years. He commented that the administration of these banks are under the required levels.

The administrative staff at banks are being appointed according to social considerations and not professional ones or qualifications and Kuwaiti banks will not be able to compete in the field of financial investment with foreign establishments due to the deficit in the financial and administrative structure of these banks, the official said.

The government can change this structure and develop or improve the performance of the banks by many ways. It can apply a limited development strategy for all banks and financial establishments to the country. It also can improve the performance of its financial establishments and use the great surplus to develop and improve sufficiency of banks by giving these surpluses to active banks, Saadoun said.



Contract signed

The chairman and director general of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duqai Al Sabah signed a contract for the new premises of the authority with a local consultant office. Sheikh Ibrahim said that the new building will become the headquarters of the authority. The project is one of the important projects of the Five Year Plan of the authority. The cost of the designs will reach about KD140,000 while construction will cost about KD4 million.

Crime file

Forgers arrested

DETECTIVES of the capital governorate apprehended some members of a gang charged with forging "Istimaras," a local daily said.

It added that the victims of this gang amounted to 40, including three girls.

Meanwhile, the daily quoted sources as saying that the authorities are further investigating about 100 forged Istimaras with a view to determine the culprits. Investigations of the apprehended culprits revealed that they received between KD600 and KD1,000 for each Istimara.

Children burn to death in car: A father who had left his two children in his car which was run-

ning at the time and had gone to purchase some groceries had the shock of his life to see them being burnt alive on his return to the car.

According to a local daily, the father had gone to the co-operative and had either left the air conditioner running and there was a short-circuit resulting in the car bursting into flames, or one of the children had lit a match igniting some trapped gases within the car.

Investigations are under progress to determine the cause of the fire. The father is too dismayed to give any explanation and is reported to be in profound shock.

Aid to Lebanon approved

THE public health minister has started the implementation of cabinet decision requiring for the preparation of moral aid bound for the Lebanese government.

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rasheed Al Rashed told newsmen that the donations gathered for the Lebanese people will go to all classes of people and distributed in all different parts of Lebanon with no exception whatsoever.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister is extremely concerned about this matter which formed a central responsibility on Kuwait as a sister country to help the Lebanese the official said and added that this concern expresses the attitude of the state of Kuwait, Amir, government and people.

He said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is beginning to work towards meeting the existing shortages on the consumer market and to fight any attempts to increase price of commodities commonly in high demand during the holy month of Ramadan.

He said that regardless of the reasons leading to the increase in prices during this month, the government responsibility rests on taking speedy measures to protect consumers against unnatural price jumps. Special government instructions were issued to probe into any attempts to legalise proposed price increases, stressing that meeting consumer needs come first on the government's list of priorities.

KU to celebrate silver jubilee in 1991-92

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY will celebrate its silver jubilee during the academic year 1991/1992 and in this context has decided to form a higher committee to draw up a worthwhile programme in the area of sport, scientific, cultural, artistic and information activities.

The celebrations will be held on the national and popular levels and are tailored to reveal the scientific role of the university in society as the highest academic institution in the country.

On the other hand, the higher committee headed by Dr Rasha Al Sabah, assistant director for university society service and information held two meetings with committee members during which they reviewed the most important issues concerning celebrations.

The television committee formed by the higher committee is considered to be one of the most important committees established to serve celebrations. The committee will introduce a television serial for viewers and university students in particular.

The television programme will aim at serving a large sector of academics and will reveal the level reached by the university scientific development. It also aims at achieving stronger ties between society and the university in addition to informing parents on the most objective issues. The programme will consist of 26 parts and the first will be televised next October.

Disease in cattle decreasing

THE director of the Animal Health Department at the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Dr Sultan Ahmad Al-Sultan has said that the disease attacking cattle in the country has been steadily decreasing thanks to the efforts exerted by the authority.

He told Al Seyassah that there are no serious epidemics in the country, pointing out that the existing diseases were appearing in imported animals. He added that the relevant animal controls are exerting considerable effort to prevent the entry of diseased animals into the country and that many of these animals have actually been denied access into Kuwait.

He said that following the transfer of control over the Central Slaughter House to the authority, that

better, more careful measures would be applied to put an end to the influx of diseased animals, the official said.

He disclosed that more than 21 applications have been received by the department for starting vet pharmacies, and that applicants, seeking to open clinics and infirmaries for animals have been received.

In this respect, two such pharmacies have been prepared for operation, Sultan said and commented that the conditions governing the establishment of veterinary clinics and infirmaries are stringent.

He said that the allocation of suitable landplots for the establishment and construction of such vital veterinary services and facilities will witness better opportunities for applicants wishing to take up this profession.

Meet a neighbour



Sheikhha Nashmiya ... rare sophistication.

Patriot with a passion for art

Call to preserve indigenous traditions

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

SHEIKHA NASHMIYA Al Ahmed's patriotic passion for Kuwait and another for collecting antiques is a dominant feature of her daily life. The regal bearing of the personage of Sheikhha Nashmiya vividly depicts a strong personality which she candidly attributes to her father, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber and in her relationship to her brother the present Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed.

In a broader context Sheikhha Nashmiya nurtures patriotic feelings that have been instilled since her childhood. This has shaped and prompted her love in collecting Kuwaiti antiques to preserve her country's heritage.

Her collection of Kuwaiti antiques includes chests and silver swords which are cleverly displayed in different corners in her house. Apart from that are Sadu cushions, placed on sofas and seats. For her each antique she owns has a story to tell.

For Sheikhha Nashmiya her

love of collecting antiques extends to possess rare pieces of art and furniture from all over the world such as India, Turkey and France.

At her house antiques vary from vases and paintings to gold seam covering wooden trunks that belonged to late King Farouk of Egypt and other chivalrous of the same era are used as decoration on the walls in her dining room.

Responsibility

Many paintings she owns are of famous artists displayed in her house along with old coins inside show cases next to certificates of authenticity.

Sheikhha Nashmiya exudes confidence and sophistication which is evidenced in her continued efforts in presiding over public functions for women at all levels of activities in the country. At the same time she encourages women that are based on through generations to preserve that unfaded patriotic feeling.

Commenting about the development in Kuwait, Sheikhha Nashmiya said that the country has spared no efforts in providing Kuwaiti youths with every imaginable opportunity and guiding them to be model citizens capable of shouldering their future responsibilities.

Sheikhha Nashmiya is a staunch defender of bringing up children on Islamic teachings and Arab traditions. As a mother, taking care of her children is her first priority without totally depending on nannies and maids.

She appreciates the role of Kuwaiti women and their contribution to society in general and the cohesive traditions that they imbibe into their families.

On diversified issues, Sheikhha Nashmiya keeps herself up-to-date on developments at the regional and international levels. Also she enjoys reading certain Arab writers such as Ihsan Abdul Qadous and other local Nabat poets.

Sheikhha Nashmiya is known for reviving old Kuwait traditions specially during Ramadan by celebrating the *Qatir* "Local activity similar to trick or treat." On *Qatir* on which occur on 12-15 of Ramadan, Sheikhha Nashmiya gets the children together and also generously fills sacks of other children who knock at her door during *Qatir*.

She has called for preserving indigenous Kuwaiti habits and traditions against the changes brought on by modern civilisation.

Drop in budget deficit predicted

Rationalisation of spending successful

THE existing deficit in the national budget for the fiscal year 91/92 will reportedly undergo a tangible drop due to the careful financial policy employed by the government to rationalise spending.

A local daily quoted an official source as saying that the government will provide, as usual, special budgetary allocations for the employment of Kuwait graduates from the various local universities and institutes. On this issue the Minister of Finance Jaseem Al Khorafi has held a series of

meetings with top government officials to discuss the government's future strategy regarding the projects and plans proposed for the years to come.

The source added that the returns of public revenues, although were spent to fund the development of existing public services and facilities.

The difficult loan settlement programme receives the greater share of government concern and that there is great response and co-operation in this regard

from all involved parties, which led to the settlement of the greater part of this problem, the official said.

He added that Kuwait's recommendations to the Organisation of Economic Unity submitted to the organisation secretary-general was reportedly under implementation.

He commented that Kuwait's stand was clear in seeking to sort out existing functional duplication, pointing out that the economic and social council was performing the same duties, stressing that Kuwait paid 28 per cent of the total budget of the council.

He said that the cost of the new petrochemical factory will reach KD600 million, adding that the cost is expected to increase up to three billion dollars.

The projects will consist of eight factors, and will utilise naphtha and natural gas as raw feed for the production of polyethylene and ethylene glycol, and other aromatics.

Tradition retained at new Amir Souk

THE Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Sayed Abdul Mohsen Al Refai has said that the Municipal Affairs Committee has endorsed the stipulations recommended for reducing the number of operating shops at the Internal Market (Amir Market).

He told a local daily that the Council of Ministers discussed at its recent session the market issue in response to the directives of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, who showed great concern about this issue and requested quick reoperation of the market, particularly since the intention is currently to use the same market location without making any changes in the former trading business.

The existing 73 shops would be redistributed to the same old owners, based on a directive by HH the Crown Prince so that the same old time-honoured traditional atmosphere will be created and maintained.

He said the municipality will co-operate with the Department of Government Domains in redistributing the shops, being the legitimate authority in control of this government-owned real-estate.

The municipality has finalised the laying down of regulations and constraints to control the licensing system of flats, and stores for citizens in commercial and investment areas, and that the matter is awaiting implementation, Refai said.

He added that the Municipality will enforce this system as soon as possible and that the related public transactions submitted by citizens will be processed as soon as the relevant ministerial decision and related provisions appear in the official gazette.

System

He said that the acting director-general of the Municipality Sabah Jaber Al-Ali has issued an administrative decision regarding the executive and planning measures required for approving the utilisation of real-estate, such as flats, in the shopping and investment areas.

Owners, individuals or companies, wishing to sell according to the system of flats and stores, must consult the Municipality for its technical counsel from the planning viewpoint, before proceeding with selling formalities.

He said that the planning opinion will be effective for one year from the date of its issue, adding that the owners will have to submit applications to the Department of Control and Follow-up for defining the sought real-estate based on the enforced system of flats and stores, to which the technical opinion must be attached.



Education exhibit

The Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri opened recently an exhibit of special education products at the permanent exhibit's premises at the Capital Educational Area. The opening was attended by assistant undersecretaries and senior officials of the ministry. Minister Nouri inspected the contents of the exhibit which were produced by pupils of special education schools. The exhibit is open everyday from 8 to 11 am and from 9 pm to midnight. The exhibit will be opened till April 12th. Picture shows Nouri and assistant undersecretaries inspecting the exhibit.

Mergers may be beneficial

Banks will overcome debt crisis, says Awadi

By Mahmoud Abdeen

THE chief of general and executive managers at Kuwait's Gulf Bank Dr Yusuf Abdullah Al Awadi was quoted as saying that the local banking sector will witness a new era in the wake of surmounting bad debts.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah, Awadi said that such an era will provide a lot of opportunities in addition to upgrading human resources.

He commented that the Man-akh Crisis is not an issue of the past as yet, since its effects could be perceived obviously in Kuwait's economy structure. But, he clarified that the effects of such a crisis which lashed the country in 1982 will disappear in the near future particularly in the light of the implementation of most of the recommendations contained in the Joint Economic Report which had been prepared recently by the representatives of the government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Meanwhile, Awadi has stressed that surmounting the Man-akh Crisis rests in leaving the

effective market powers to play its natural role which will eventually lead either to liquidate such powers or to get them merged.

He expressed the conviction that the structure of the country's financial sector should be reviewed in a new spirit in order to reorganise this sector. He commented that the merger will constitute one of the ideal vehicles for strengthening the financial base, clarifying that the merger process will not apply on the banks only but it could be realised through the merging of the banks and financial and investment companies in addition to the merger of some local investment companies.

The merger process could also encompass the insurance sector in order to set up more effective avenues to serve such a sector.

Speaking of the inter-bank relations, the official described this relation as governed by the reciprocal confidence, adding that the local banks were embodying its co-operation through the Kuwait Banking Society and in sound competitive

atmosphere which was guaranteed by the economic liberal system prevailing in the country.

Replying to a question about the setting up of the investment banks, the official commented that investment banks are not available in Kuwait although the relevant activities and functions were familiar to the local banking sector as the local banks as well as the investment companies mostly cover these investment functions and activities.

He clarified that practically there was a form of investment banks which could be represented by the local investment companies as well as the investment departments available in each local bank, as these companies and departments were undertaking the managing of investment portfolios for customers in addition to marketing of bonds and other financial securities in addition to their contribution in the financial and trusts markets.

Commenting on the banking classification adopted recently by Basel Committee, the official described such a classification as prejudicial and unfair, clarifying that the classification was biased.

\$2m cash support to intifada

HEAD of the Aid Committee for Palestine and Lebanon, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Falah has stated that the committee presented two million dollars in cash to support the uprising (intifada) of the Palestinian people. He added that an additional one and a half million was presented for the support of charity projects in Palestine. He stressed that the committee works to preserve Islamic holy sites in Palestine and is keen to establish a number of mosques, health centres, schools and social centres. He pointed out that the Mohajereen and Ansar project aims at reviving the picture of solidarity and Islamic brotherhood. He indicated that the committee has many projects to offer and called for the support of good people.

He stated that these projects include Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, and the Palestine committee has established the Faith Clinic inside Jerusalem and another health centre in the Arab part of Jerusalem. Both centres include a mental clinic and medical laboratories the official said. The committee also provides medical equipment to the Ansar clinic in Jerusalem and bought two ambulances for the interest of Nahul and Tolkarem committees.

He indicated that a number of doctors and nurses visit the areas to introduce health services to people living in camps and towns.

UAE releases over 250 prisoners

RAS AL KHAIMAH, April 4, (Kuna): Members of UAE's Supreme Council and ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qasbi, yesterday ordered the release of 14 prisoners.

Ras Al Khaimah's police commander Sheikh Sultan Bin Salem Al Qasbi said that the decree comes within the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

In a similar measure, the ruler of Umm Al Quwain, Sheikh Rashed Bin Ahmad Al Moa'la, has ordered the release of 14 prisoners.

Health Day, April 7

KUWAIT, April 4, (Kuna): Kuwait is to observe on April 7 World Health Day together with Kuwait's Health Week under the auspices of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah.

Under the motto "Our Health and Environment" the week's activities will include enlightenment campaigns and lectures to be organised by the national organising committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources and the Ministry of Health.

Sheep prices increase

Butchers complain of unsympathetic consumers

THE local market for Australian sheep is in a confused state as during the last few days the prices of live Australian sheep were increased from KD15 to KD16.500 by the Kuwaiti Livestock Company (KLC).

In this context, merchants called for reconsidering the prices of meat that are determined by the Ministry of Commerce — specifically because Australian sheep in summer usually arrive with less weight which causes huge losses to butchers who are obliged to sell for 750 fils per kilo. They added that the KLC sells sheep to butchers at the same price whether they are heavy or light.

A butcher, Sayed Hamada said that sudden increase in prices of sheep that are imported from Australia directly affects butchers who are obliged to increase their prices. But, consumers do not understand this aspect, or are not willing to understand, he said and they continually accuse butchers of increasing their prices to gain

more profits.

He added that KLC increases prices of livestock for four months a year that begins in March. During this period the sheep are light in weight and selling these sheep at the standard prices results in losses to butchers. He added that butchers sell the small sizes of sheep while co-operatives sell larger varieties and consequently, co-operatives can sell at cheaper prices. Additionally, he said that the absence of Turkish frozen sheep has led to an increase in prices of Australian sheep.

However, Dr Sayed Amara pointed out that KLC increased its prices because of a hike in the international prices and that prices of live sheep have been witnessing a steady and continual increase. The official said that the municipality and Ministry of Commerce should set up a joint committee to determine the maximum level of prices for live sheep as is specified for slaughtered sheep. He said that the price

of slaughtered sheep has remained unchanged for quite some time.

Sharif Rizk said that sudden hike in prices of Australian sheep brings losses to both butcher and consumer. Before the increase butchers were competing with each other because they had a chance to reduce their prices by 50 per cent. But now butchers sell for 750 fils a kilo in order not to suffer losses. He added that increase of prices of the livestock is mainly caused because KLC has a monopoly on the import of live sheep.

Meanwhile, the chairman of KLC, Faisal Al Khizam attributed the increase of price of Australian sheep to the fact that sheep sold have suitable prices compared to their weight. The costs of purchase and transportation have also increased. Commenting on the monopoly enjoyed by KLC in the local meat market, he said that this accusation is false because Kuwait is an open market and anybody who wants to import livestock can.

UAE oil minister in India

ABU DHABI, April 4, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Mani Said Al Otaiba yesterday left here for New Delhi to deliver a message to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan.

The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Otaiba had met with Indian ambassador to the UAE and discussed with him co-operation relations between the two countries particularly in fields of petroleum, before his departure.

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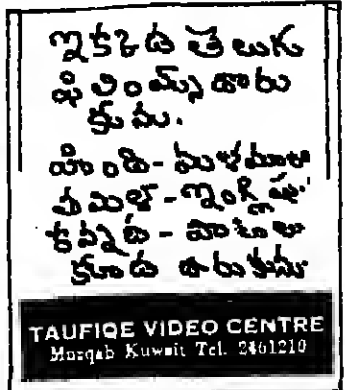
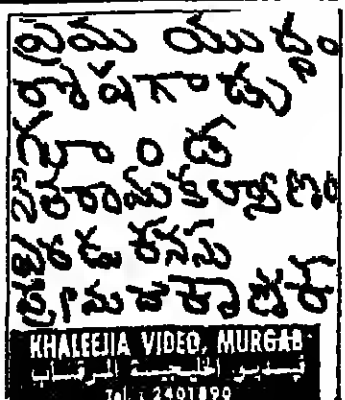
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THE greater the difficulty, the greater the glory — Cicero, Roman statesman-philosopher (106 BC-43 BC).

Handling of Namibia

UN scores big success

WINDHOEK, Namibia, (AP) After numerous missions that floundered, the United Nations scored a major success in guiding Namibia to independence and also learned several key lessons for future operations in troubled regions.

The year-long effort by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, or Untag, was one of the largest and most expensive undertaken by the United Nations. It overcame several crises that threatened to derail the independence plan for Namibia, which South Africa ruled for 75 years.

Applause

As the UN withdraws from the vast, arid nation, it is receiving sustained applause from Namibians and other countries involved. Residents hosted farewell parties at UN offices around the new country, sometimes slaughtering sheep and oxen for the celebration.

"Untag will forever be remembered by our people," said Namibia's new Foreign Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab. "There are Namibian children named Untag."

But in contrast to the Namibian operation, other major UN missions have been ineffective or dragged on inconclusively in Lebanon, Cyprus, Iran and Iraq, and the disputed Kashmir region of India and Pakistan, where troubled still flares despite a UN presence dating to the 1940s.

Even in Namibia, the UN effort almost collapsed the day it began, April 1, 1989.

Only about 1,000 of the 7,900 UN civilian and military personnel were in place, and guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation crossed from Angola into northern Namibia in violation of the independence plan. That ignited three weeks of fighting with the South Africa-led security forces while the UN peacekeeping forces were largely impotent.

"The entire mission could have been aborted," said UN spokesman Fred Eckhard. "It took us months to scramble out of that hole and restore confidence."

Occupation

Some Namibians saw the UN as a "new army of occupation," replacing the South Africans, Eckhard said. South Africans and the competing factions in Namibia all accused the UN of partiality at different stages. Field workers were threatened or intimidated by various parties, and one station was bombed, killing a private security guard.

After peace was restored, the UN had to repatriate more than 43,000 Namibians from 40 countries and supervise an election where most of the 1.3 million people were illiterate and had never voted.

It also was a new experience for many of the UN personnel, moved from desk jobs in New York or Geneva to villages in the African bush. Field workers faced a variety of problems, not all of them related to Namibia's independence.

"The local Untag stations became a place to bring one's problems — people even sought help for marital disputes," Eckhard said.

South Africa threatened to cancel the elections only days before they were to take place last November, claiming UN radio traffic was reporting an infiltration by Swapo guerrillas. South Africa soon withdrew its allegations, but suspicions remained.

Seven political parties, led by Swapo, captured seats in the polls, which had a 97 per cent voter turnout and were universally praised as free and fair.

Trained

"We effectively trained hundreds (of UN personnel) for politically delicate field missions and learned quite a lot about how to respond in tense situations," the UN spokesman said.

To future missions, the UN is likely to send more policemen and civilians and fewer soldiers when involved in election monitoring, he said.

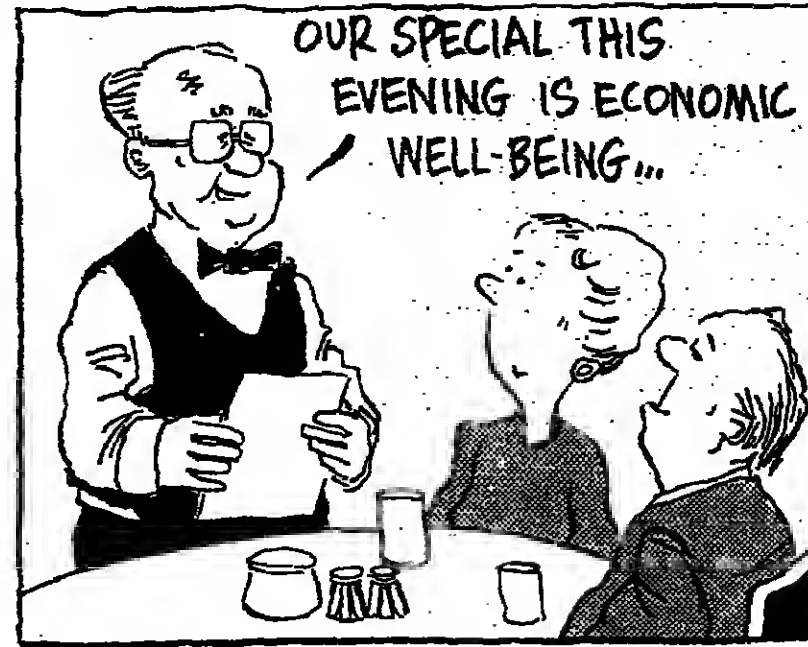
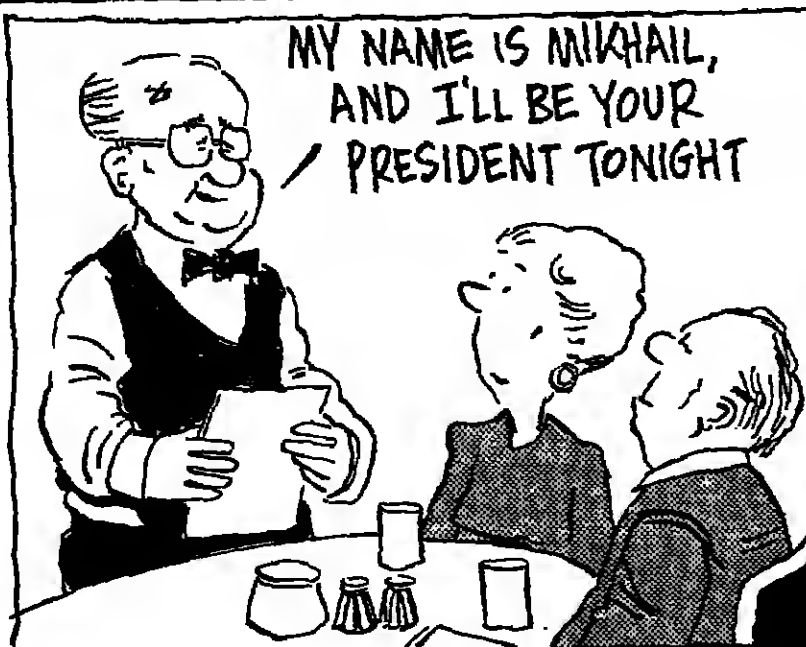
The original UN contingent included 4,650 soldiers and 500 policemen. But an additional 1,000 police were sent as it became apparent they were best as monitor elections, the spokesman added.

The UN also took over social services that had been provided by Namibia's territorial army, such as health care, teaching school and delivering food to remote villages, Eckhard said.

By the time independence day arrived March 21, Namibia's rival political parties had agreed unanimously to a democratic constitution and joined in calling for national reconciliation after 23 years of war.



Perez de Cuellar



Letters to the editor

Oil market

SIR: Some oil observers have voiced concern about how to secure the necessary financing for expanding production capacity so as to meet the expected increase in demand between now and the end of the century and maintain a margin of flexibility that lends stability to world markets.

The oil exporting countries have on many occasions expressed their willingness to produce the quantities required for world economic growth. They have backed up their statements with concrete plans for expanding production capacity and increasing exports. These countries have sufficient oil reserves to last for many decades. Opec reserves in 1989 totalled 600 billion barrels, compared with only 340 billion in 1980. Moreover, there is a high probability that more discoveries will be made, because exploration efforts are still in the early stages in most Opec member countries — a fact that is well-known to everyone concerned with the oil industry.

We do not believe that securing the finances for expanding the production capacity of exporting countries is an insurmountable difficulty, despite the differences in their financial positions. Some are able to finance their own projects, while others require outside financing. However, so long as the reserves exist, financing should not pose a problem, even if it is from foreign sources. Capital always flows to the most secure and profitable investments.

The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare. Oil markets are still swayed heavily by transient factors and long-term consumption forecasts are subject to constant revision. The devastating effect of surplus capacity on economic growth in Opec member countries is still apparent.

The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma. Another problem relates to the extensive campaign being launched against oil products in the name of environmental protection. The campaign portrays oil as the most polluting energy source, although coal is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous, as the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated so poignantly. We are naturally concerned with protecting the environment on the local and global levels, because it affects our very existence. However, any decision taken in the name of environmental protection must be based on scientifically proven facts about the scale of pollution caused by various sources and the costs of reducing it.

Obstacles These obstacles do not create an atmosphere conducive to sound investment decisions about expanding the production capacity of the oil exporting countries. If true world economic growth is to be achieved, a frank, constructive dialogue must be established between producers and consumers, industrial and developing countries. Only in this way can the obstacles be overcome and bridges of mutual understanding built, leading to a clearer picture of future world oil demand.

The oil producing countries have spared no effort in fostering understanding with the oil consuming countries, as witnessed by the large number of meetings, symposiums, and lectures organised by Opec and Opec in conjunction with institutions in the industrial countries such as the European Economic Community, with the aim of promoting understanding.

The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands. Are there any takers?

Dr Usamah Jamali,
Oapec, dir. of infor. & lib. dept,
Kuwait.

Biased reporting

SIR: Like many others it agonises me to hear about any unpleasant news of my country. Not long before I read in Kuwait Times about "a story of ten million rats in Bangladesh." AT brings from time to time stories of "Bangla clashes" and "jungle fighting" in my country. There is almost always mentioning in news report of our people's deplorable economic condition. I do concede that these are all true and truth must be revealed always. But I only wonder why one should seek for filthy things to reveal almost all the time. Do we only have too many rodents to find and too little to crumbs in eat?

A good heart can very easily find everywhere in this world a lot many good things to give to its mankind. But a bad one can always look for the bad.

One can very easily discover the poor humble condition of my country like many of the Third World nations and if one is prudent he will seek for the cause of this condition. One will not hesitate to mention while talking about my country's misery that 200 years of colonial rule by the British and 24 years of discrimination by Pakistan have caused the major havoc on this nation's economy and subsequently made the country infested with too many rodents.

Reports of clashes especially among students are true. But our students are as progressive as any progressive student community anywhere in the world. They were at the forefront in our struggle for freedom and still remain the vanguard in the progressive movements of the nation.

A good heart with a good brain can easily find that this poor nation has a rich culture and civilisation and has a rich literature and has many renowned writers, poets, artists and professionals to boast of.

We stand all as one in time of our disaster hand in hand; we endeavour with all our efforts to build a happy future.

One should not be vindictive nor should he be biased in his word and work. So many people in this world are suffering and so many people are sad. So let's make this world a happy place to live by our deeds.

Harun,
Safat.

IAC official

SIR: Absurdity has been defined as a statement of opinion manifestly inconsistent with one's own belief. Somehow, I was reminded of this definition when I read the letter from the so-called IAC well-wisher in your newspaper dated March 25. It is hard to believe that this writer really believes in his own stated opinions!

His statement about the key official of the India Festival not being a member of the Indian Arts Circle is not a big revelation. This official never pretended to be a member of IAC. Anyone with average common sense could make out that this key official was only competing the programme that day with a lady competitor. I am relieved that the writer did not complain that the artist who danced that day is not a member of IAC. I wish to compliment the key official and many other for spending their valuable time for India Festival, along with the IAC members. It is this spirit of co-operation and understanding which brings about unity among Indians.

The purpose of the so-called well-wisher seems to be a rift in the IAC. Please, Mr. W.W., give more credit to IAC members. The correct word the writer should have used instead of "inner circle," is executive committee. My enquiries reveal that the executive committee of IAC duly met and authorised the vice-president to take all necessary steps for conducting the festival. The March 7 function was held under his authority and with his clearance and as such it was strictly in order. I understand that there is no rule that a general body meeting should be held for conducting every function.

The ignorance of Mr. W.W. about the rules and a careful reading of the last but one para of his letter proves that the writer is not a member of IAC. Moreover, if he really was a member of the IAC, he could have easily taken up his complaint directly to the executive committee rather than resorting to a letter in the newspaper.

I challenge this IAC well-wisher to publish his name and IAC membership number, if his intentions are honourable.

The writer should realise that IAC has to take up M.M. (money making) activities to pay back M.B. (money borrowed). When IAC was borrowing thousands of dollars to build the current premises, where were you, Mr. Well-Wisher?

An IAC member,
(Name and address supplied).

Money-making

SIR: The IAC and Indian schools are aptly called money-making institutions and both are run almost by the same people. Both are started with Indians' money and both are run by Indians but accountable to a few selected VIPs, who are screened and selected by the top man.

The pathetic point is that both are run by people who have a history of making organisations "bankrupt". Those new schools running of single shift show profit, while Indian schools with double shift and with old rents are always in debt.

Once I heard a director saying, it's too difficult to run the school with its limited income. What kind of comfort do you give to students for the fees you take from the parents? Look at the KG building, Salmiya, which is dilapidated and one more floor is being added. Children have difficulty when it rains. Any other school in Kuwait offer better facilities than Indian schools, which always claim that they are moving to their own building but never move.

For parents with more than 2 or 3 children, it's naturally difficult to pay full fees especially, at the present cost of living. Has the generous chairman — at least, that is what he and his supporters claim — ever thought of such poor people? I don't think, by doing this he will make this too "bankrupt".

Where are all those revenues of IAC, throughout these years? Is it true that it will be demolished soon, and still it's in somebody else's name and Bharat Mehta is yet another trick to make more money before demolition.

Both these institutions should be brought under the Indian embassy soon, because both are too much corrupt. That way these two will be able to offer maximum benefits to all Indians alike and not to a selected few.

An Indian,
(Name and address supplied).

School affairs

SIR: I avail this opportunity to voice my concern over the mysterious affairs prevailing over International School of Pakistan and earnestly hope that you will accommodate my view point.

Today is Sunday, April 1st, 1990. 9th Class has just been promoted to 10th. The first class of physics is in progress when the principal enters and disrupts the class's attention. He explains Pakistan's Judicial System of Lower, High and Supreme courts. By doing so he is trying to brain-wash the young minds by advocating that the Supreme Court is still open for affiliation, appeal, therefore "sit-right" and persuade your parents not to transfer you to other schools. He even threatens that those obtaining transfer certificates, shall not be accommodated later on.

Later that day, all the teachers who came to the same class used all their skills to brain-wash the children and advised them to stay, even at the expense of ruining their careers by appearing as exam candidates. The next day, the brain washing techniques didn't remain confined to Senior Classes, but the whole school was briefed about Pakistan's Judicial System in the morning assembly sermon.

Apparently the principal is trying to halt the exodus of students from the school but sadly, without taking any tangible and meaningful steps. His misleading and erroneous interpretations may shake the young minds into an emotional frenzy, but not to the parents, who have just witnessed a disastrous event of late Marie Class.

I would like to advise him to refrain from rhetoric and false pretensions and act positively, if at all, concerned with the welfare of our children. Now he cannot fool parents even on April 1.

Akhter J. Shah,
Safat.

Doubts about leaders

SIR: The belated announcement on the set-up of the Goan Welfare Society which appeared in the Arab Times is most welcome. Indeed, it has taken a lot of patience, stamina and determination to realise the formation of this society for the common benefit of the Goans in Kuwait.

Whereas our hearts go all out in support of the society and its aims, however our minds have doubts whether those we have entrusted with the functions of this society will go about handling its affairs in the best interest of the Goans.

We are saying this from a point of recent development. When in good faith, the Goan Community Committee for Air-India flights, customs and cargo matters, lent its support to the society to create a separate GWS cell to tackle the relevant issues and when the first meeting took place with Air-India officials in Kuwait on April 2, the president of the GWS Joe Correa failed to convey the information of this first meeting to the head of the Goan Community Committee from a point of personal ego. This in itself is a sad experience and poor reflection on the performance of the head of the managing committee who has to function without prejudices or bias in the best interest of the GWS. Any other issues not related to the matter of airline/customs/cargo have to be tackled separately in an in-house manner.

This episode is reluctantly brought to the attention of the GWS members at the very beginning to inform them so as to avoid such an incident happening again in any other area of GWS operations and functions. We cannot allow Joe Correa to make his own rules which the society does not accept.

It is on record that the Goan Community Committee was set up as early as 1979 and throughout its 10 years of existence it has with the support of Kuwait Goans community secured the Goa flight, taken up issues with Goa customs and got the cargo warehouse facility and has excellent dialogue with Air-India, Kuwait office as well as other government institutions in India.

For our side we shall give every possible help to the GWS.

Vincent de Souza,
(Founder member — GWS),
Kuwait.

Bury differences

SIR: Through your newspaper "What's On" column, I came to know that Hyderabad's (Deccan) are going to celebrate 400 years of Hyderabad (India). I would like to thank Mohammed Khan, sponsor of the organisation, Mohammed Fasihuddin convenor, Naseeruddin joint convenor, Dr. Naidin, sports convenor, and all others who are trying to make this event a success.

I request all Hyderabadis to put aside their differences and get together to make this event a success.

Mohammed Basheeruddin,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Tanzania may allow pluralism

DAR ES SALAAM, (Reuters): Winds of change have gusting down from Eastern Europe to stir an unprecedented political debate in socialist Tanzania.

The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party is discussing, publicly and for the first time, the possibility of a multi-party system.

A party symposium in late March on the lessons to be drawn from the popular revolts in Eastern Europe heard frank criticism and suggestions for change.

Consensus

The broad consensus was that Tanzania's home-grown brand of socialism need not go the way of East European communism if the CCM stays in touch with the people, said party ideology secretary Kingunge Ngombale Mwiru.

"It's important to draw certain lessons," he told Reuters.

"When you carry out a revolution in the name of the working people and then after 40 years those very people come out and denounce you, you must ask a lot of questions."

"The one-party system has a lot of weaknesses, because there are no challenges," he said. One way of providing a challenge would be to allow single issue pressure groups such as youth, trade union and women's movements, Ngombale Mwiru said.

But political opposition parties could not be ruled out.

"This debate will continue and if that is what people want, then there will have to be steps to allow other parties," the party ideology chief said.

The debate in the CCM began not as a result of popular clamour, street protests or strikes, but at the bidding of party chairman Julius Nyerere.

Nyerere led Tanzania to independence from Britain in 1961 and developed the CCM's ideology of socialism and self-reliance, but he stepped down as president in 1985.

Changes

"Tanzanians should not... believe that a one-party state is God's wish," Nyerere said last month in a speech which opened the debate on political changes.

"It is now possible to have alternative parties if only to overcome problems related to complacency in a single-party system," he added.

Diplomatic sources said Nyerere, who has seen much of his economic thinking reversed by the market-oriented policies of his successor Ali Hassan Mwinyi, was clashing at the last of his ideals.

"Nyerere was badly shaken by events in East Europe, he's scared of seeing his life's work swept away," said one source. Tanzania's readiness to discuss a multi-party system contrasts with the attitude of many other African countries, where leaders say they have nothing to learn from East Europe.

President Daniel Arap Moi in neighbouring Kenya said bluntly last month that Africa is not yet ready for multi-party politics.

But one diplomat said the debate in Tanzania was being orchestrated for appearance's sake and the CCM hardliners would not readily give up power.

"They are allowing this debate but they are not really going to take the lid off," he said. "We don't need a multi-party system, that's very bourgeois," said Aikael Kweka, a professor of development studies at Dar Es Salaam University who attended the CCM symposium.

"Opposition parties would just be run by foreigners wanting to interfere," he added.

Force

Diplomats say the Tanzanian government has ruled without resorting to force to control its people and there are few political prisoners. Most of those jailed for political reasons are connected with separatist rumblings on the autonomous island of Zanzibar.

But there is a tendency to allow criticism and then not act on it, one diplomat said.

The authorities also keep an effective lid on popular unrest through the government's East German trained security service and the party's Chinese-style cell system, which has a leader to monitor every 10 households.

Nevertheless, the party does not have experience of admitting to failures on the economic front.

Once the darling of Western donors who admired Nyerere's plucky idealism and humanitarian style of government, Tanzania gave its people better health and education in the 1970s but sent the economy to sleep.

But in 1986, Mwinyi bowed to demands for what he called "a pound of flesh" from the International Monetary Fund and began to implement market-oriented economic reforms, dragging party hardliners with him.

There have been moves to shake up lumbering state concerns and boost the private sector. Trade liberalisation and a massive influx of Western aid have boosted imports.

And the economy, which was stagnant 10 years ago, recorded healthy growth of four per cent last year.

QUOTE ME

"That almighty dollar, that great object of universal devotion throughout our land" — Author Washington Irving on money.

"Shakoor is my first child, and I wasn't paying much attention to anything except the birth. When I heard somebody in the delivery room say something about there being only 13 known cases like mine..." — Mrs. Khatami after delivering one twin prematurely, and having to wait for the second in July.

"The first item on his (Gorbachev's) agenda is the economy. This is a very big distraction, a big obstacle and very unfortunate..." — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov.

"Love your fellow man..." — A slogan daubed on a West Beirut street.

"We urge world public opinion to unite and call on warring factions in Lebanon to stop all violence and fighting immediately. The current escalation of violence is a great shock to public opinion both regionally and internationally and a disappointment to hopes... of finding a solution to the deteriorating situation in Beirut..." — Sami Abul-Maguid, Egyptian foreign minister.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1594 — Jean Chastel, pupil of the Jesuits, attempts to assassinate France's King Henry IV.
- 1664 — Peace Treaty of Westminster ends first Anglo-Dutch war.
- 1794 — French revolutionaries G. J. Danton and Camille Desmoulins are executed.
- 1826 — Russian ultimatum to Turkey over Serbia and Danubian provinces.
- 1881 — Britain concludes Treaty of Pretoria with Boers, recognizing independence of South African republic of Transvaal.
- 1886 — Abdul Hamid II, sultan of Turkey, appoints Alexander of Bulgaria as governor of Eastern Rumelia.
- 1939 — All German children between ages of 10 and 13 are ordered to serve in Hitler youth organization.
- 1946 — Soviet Union agrees to withdraw troops from Iran on promise of reforms in Azerbaijan.
- 1951 — Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of New York City are sentenced to death as atomic spies for Soviet Union.
- 1958 — Fidel Castro begins "total war" against Batista government in Cuba.
- 1969 — Four-man British expedition reaches North Pole after 14-month, 1,300-mile (2,100 km) trek by dog sled.
- 1971 — Pakistan airlifts foreigners from East Pakistan as fighting rages during a revolt.
- 1986 — Bomb, blamed on terrorists, kills two and injures 155 as it rips through crowded West Berlin discotheque popular with US soldiers.
- 1988 — Arabic-speaking hijackers commandeered Kuwait Airways plane with 112 people aboard and force it to land in Iran.
- 1989 — Vietnam announces it will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by Sept 30 to encourage political settlement of the 10-year-old conflict.

Israel takes Iraqi threat seriously, but no action likely now

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 4, (AP): Israel is taking seriously Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat to use chemical weapons, with some officials calling for a gas mask in every house.

But the new Middle East tensions are not likely to produce any immediate military conflict.

One reason is that the signals coming from Israeli officials indicate there will be no attempt at this point to launch a pre-emptive strike like the June 1981 air raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear plant.

"I think the message here is: cool things down, don't get into unnecessary escalation and a misreading of

intentions," said Dore Gold, a Middle East analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Officials here have issued statements stressing Israel had "no aggressive intentions" and noting a pre-emptive strike would not be risk free as it was in 1981 because Iraq now had the ability to retaliate with missiles and warplanes that could reach Israel.

Also, while there is concern about Iraq's nuclear programme, it does not seem to be on the verge of producing an atomic weapon as Israel claimed in 1981.

Jaffee center expert Joe Alpher said Iraq's nuclear development was five to 10 years away while space agency head

Yuval Neeman estimated three to five years.

Israel's reaction, for now, appeared confined to a strong showing of its technological superiority — the launch of the Ofek-2 satellite, which required a powerful missile and sophisticated electronic capabilities.

Analysts here believe Iraq is also unlikely to initiate a military action at this point because it would invite a massive Israeli retaliation.

"I don't think the Iraqi motivation for this verbal escalation is a desire to fight with Israel at this point," said Alpher.

"It seems to us that the Iraqis are more concerned with the international

situation in Iraq," he added, suggesting the sharpness of Hussein's threat to "make fire eat half of Israel" may have been an attempt to divert attention from social unrest at home.

Writing in the liberal Haaretz newspaper, military commentator Zeev Shiff said Hussein's tough words may have been ill temper over the arrest of his agents in Britain while trying to smuggle electronic triggers that could be used for atomic weapons.

Gold said the Iraqi leader's remarks should shift the focus of concern away from the Palestinian uprising to the overall Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Saddam Hussein has thrust the larger Arab-Israeli conflict back onto the world agenda after the intifada (Palestinian uprising) seemed to put it into eclipse," he said.

"It will require reassessment by both the United States and Israel of how to cope with the security challenge posed by Iraq," he added.

Right-wing politicians like Foreign Minister Moshe Arens picked up on the theme, saying it was clear the real obstacle to peace was Arab radicalism and not Israeli settlement building in Jerusalem and the West Bank which has been the target of US criticism.

"Where is the obstacle to peace in the Middle East?" Arens asked a mayor's conference. "Is it in

Jerusalem? ... or is it in Baghdad when Saddam Hussein says he has the chemical weaponry to wipe half of Israel off the earth?"

Although the threat of military conflict seemed distant, a variety of officials stressed that Israel should step up its preparedness.

Iraq's boast of state-of-the-art chemical weapons, followed immediately by Israel's launch of a satellite, has revealed the frightening new face of the Middle East arms race.

More than four decades of war decided by lightning air strikes and epic tank battles could now become devastating struggles of missiles, chemical weapons and nuclear bombs.

"Eventually Iraq is going to have nuclear weapons. Eventually Egypt is going to have nuclear weapons," said Gerald Steinberg, a missile specialist at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

Yitzhak Rabin, defence minister until last month, has warned Arab countries that Israel would retaliate 1,000-fold for any attack — raising images of devastation not seen in any of the Israeli-Arab wars.

Although the military strength of Israel and the economic weakness of Arab states has created an impression of relative calm, the race for arms to be used in some future conflict is unabated.

Geagea aligns with Hirawi

Taif peace pact accepted

BEIRUT, April 4, (Reuters): Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea gave his allegiance to the country's Syrian-backed president yesterday in a bid for support in his war for the Christian enclave.

Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has been fighting forces loyal to General Michel Aoun for two months, implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

"The solution in Lebanon is by recognising President Elias Hiriawi as president of the republic and considering the Taif agreement an introduction to that settlement," Geagea said in an interview with the communist Voice of the People radio.

The inter-Christian war, in which nearly 900 people have been killed, broke out at the end of January when Aoun ordered the LF to disband and demanded that Geagea reject the Taif pact.

Aoun, who refuses to recognise Hiriawi, opposes the Taif accord signed by Lebanese deputies in October because it makes no provision for total withdrawal of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Analysts and Christian politicians said Geagea's remarks were an implicit appeal to Hiriawi to back him against Aoun, whose troops he stands little chance of defeating alone.

"Geagea wants to avoid a new military showdown which could drain his military might. He wants Hiriawi to intervene while

his men still control two-thirds of the Christian enclave," said one Christian politician.

"He knows that a war of attrition is not in his favour because he has 300 men as a striking force while Aoun still has 1,000," said the politician.

Hiriawi has previously turned down an indirect plea for help from Geagea because he failed to recognise his authority and accept the Taif agreement. There was no immediate reaction from Hiriawi to Geagea's statement yesterday.

Geagea, once an ally of Aoun, ordered the Lebanese under his control to identify Hiriawi as president. Aoun has banned newspapers and radio from referring to Hiriawi as president.

A sharp fall in the value of their currency added to the woes of shell-shocked Lebanese as mediators failed to stop rival Christian armies from preparing for a decisive battle.

The Central Bank said yesterday the Lebanese pound closed at 585.00 to the US dollar, 10 pounds down from Monday's close.

Economic experts said the decline in the value of the pound reflected growing fears among the Lebanese who rushed to buy dollars as troops of General Michel Aoun and rival militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) prepared for more fighting.

They said the destruction of

industries, factories, and banks in east Beirut and massive damage to the main power stations, water pumps and fuel tanks have crippled the country's already ailing economy.

Hiriawi has asked UN peacekeepers to expel foreigners living illegally in the Israeli-controlled sector of south Lebanon, it was reported yesterday.

The state-run national news agency said the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department, Ahmed Ibrahim, made the request Monday to a delegation from the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The dispatch said a two-man delegation for UNIFIL's command visited Ibrahim at his office in Muslim west Beirut Monday.

Arab mediators charged with ending Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war will meet tomorrow in Beirut to discuss the latest east Beirut fighting and aid for Hiriawi, an Algerian official said.

In Beirut, an underground group threatened to attack French targets unless the remains of an Arab who assassinated a French revolutionary hero 189 years ago are returned to the Arabs, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Al Halabi stabbed and killed Gen. Jean Baptiste Kleber, a hero of the French revolution, as the general stood on a balcony in Cairo, Egypt on June 14, 1800.



Crowds march through Baghdad streets yesterday in support of the country's defiant stand against Israel, Britain and the United States. Iraq said at the UN conference on disarmament in Geneva yesterday that US and UK had embarked on a smear campaign against it to lay the grounds for a military attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Austrians in docks for arms scandal

LINZ, Austria, April 4, (AP): Eighteen defendants go on trial today for their part in illegal shipments of howitzers to Iran, in postwar Austria's biggest weapons scandal.

The political dimensions of the case dwarf previous scandals because of charges that Austrian weapons were used in the Gulf war and because politicians may have endorsed the illicit deal.

Peter Oettl, an official at the provincial court, said yesterday that with 200,000 pages of evidence and other court records the trial, expected to last eight months, is also the biggest ever in Austria.

While the indictment does not say so, more than half a dozen top politicians were alleged to be involved in the scandal.

Under Austrian law, the export of war material into "crisis regions" constitutes the criminal offense of endangering the country's neutrality.

According to the indictment, all defendants committed "an absolutely political offense." If convicted, they face prison terms ranging between six months and five years.

The defendants are either managers or senior employees of the nationalised Voest-Alpine Iron and Steel Enterprise, Noricum, its weapons-producing plant, and Hirtenberger, an old-established ammunition producer in which Voest has a majority interest.

The main defendants are Peter Unterwiesing, the director of Noricum, and Voest-Alpine board members Gerald Wicher, Alfred Koch, Claus Reidl and Peter Strahammer.

The indictment lists 140-gun howitzers, type GHN-45, caliber 155mm, plus relating barrels and grenades that were delivered to Iran in eight installments in 1985 and 1986.

The first shipments were made with a license for Libya. A separate court case is pending because of suspicion that in the years 1981-83 100 howitzers were exported to Iraq.

No change in plight of hostages

Iran accepts UN plan

NICOSIA, April 4, (Agencies): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said today Tehran has accepted a United Nations proposal to revive deadlocked peace talks with Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

But Velayati added that points of the plan must be clarified before the two countries can hold direct talks.

Velayati said Iran's decision to accept a proposal by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the two countries to sit down for two months of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement, had been communicated to the US.

The radio, quoted Velayati as saying that Perez de Cuellar would have to clarify how the points of US resolution 598, which both countries accepted previously to the August 1988 ceasefire in their eight year conflict, would be followed.

"Will he complete one point and only then go to the other point?" Velayati asked.

The Iranians demand that Iraqi forces have to withdraw from Iranian territory seized in the closing weeks of the war before any other points can be discussed.

Iraq still occupies about 385 square miles (1,000 square kilometres) of Iranian territory.

"In the event one side creates problems, will he carry out the role the US Security Council has designated for him, meaning will he set a time limit for the talks?" Velayati asked.

Velayati added that for progress, determining a time frame is a must. The secretary-general has

taken the first step in the new plan, but it is necessary to take other steps to clarify his stance on the time frame."

Peace talks which began five days after the Aug. 20, 1988 ceasefire, have been stalled, mainly over the question of priorities.

Meanwhile demands by kidnappers of Western hostages in Lebanon should be met before any release of the captives, an influential Iranian member of parliament said.

"They (kidnappers) have certain conditions which have to be met before the hostages can be released," said Ahmad Azizi, leading the Iranian delegation to an Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Cyprus.

He told Reuters prospects for the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, including eight Americans, had not improved despite a call in March by the pro-government Tehran Times for their unconditional release.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in March the issue was moving towards a solution and a Foreign Ministry official said the captives could be freed by the end of this year.

"I see no change in the situation. It remains the same as before," Azizi said.

He repeated Iran's position that Tehran was willing to help release the hostages on condition that Western countries helped to determine the fate of three Iranians and a Lebanese driver missing in Lebanon in 1982.

Afghan rebels deny role in drugs trade

ISLAMABAD April 4 (UPI): The head of the Afghan resistance's government-in-exile denied to a senior US official yesterday that rebel commanders engaged in drug trafficking in Afghanistan, a rebel statement said.

The assertion by Singhatulla Mojaddidi at a meeting with Melvyn Levitsky, US assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters, came as customs officials reported the seizure of 836 pounds of heroin near the Afghan border. It was one of the biggest such hauls in Pakistan this year.

Levitsky, on a five-nation Asian tour seeing ways to stem the heroin trade, said Monday that the United States has warned the resistance is "cannot accept a situation" in which it is providing aid to the rebels while they are encouraging drug production and drug trafficking.

Mojaddidi, president of the Afghan Interim Government, which was set up last year as a government-in-exile, denied in his meeting with Levitsky that the resistance was involved in the drug trade, an AIG statement said.

"Rejecting categorically the allegations that Afghan mujahedeen are indulging in narcotics cultivation and trafficking, the president made it clear that Islam prohibited the cultivation and use of drugs and defined it as a great sin," the statement said.

● Supporters of rival Afghan resistance groups fought daylong gun battles in a refugee camp in Pakistan yesterday, leaving four people dead and one wounded, police said.

They said the trouble erupted early in morning between refugees supporting the Hezb-e-Islami rebel group of the Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and those backing the rival Jamiatul-Islami Party in the Barakai camp about 80 miles (130 km) northeast of the border city of Peshawar.

Palestinian state in five years

DAMMAN, April 4, (Reuters): An adviser to Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview published today he expected a Palestinian state within five years.

"We will fight even if the struggle takes ten years, though my expectations are that a Palestinian state will be established within five years," Dr Nabil Sha'ath told Al-Yom newspaper.

Asked whether the Palestinian problem was heading towards a settlement, Sha'ath said: "The growing strength of the Arabs indicates that one day they will be able to face Israel."

"To achieve peace the Arab nation should be ready to face Israel. Had this been the case now, I would have unhesitatingly said we are in the final phases (of a settlement)."

Sha'ath said giving Soviet Jews the right to emigrate to Israel "should be coupled with Palestinians enjoying equal rights to go to Palestine."

Peres' bid to form cabinet stalled

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 4, (Agencies): Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres edged closer to the deadline for forming a government but although he formalised existing support he remained deadlocked with his rival, Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

Each have the nominal support of 60 members in the 120-seat Parliament in their efforts to replace the government shattered by a vote of no confidence last month.

After signing a deal yesterday with the religious Agudat Israel Party, Peres said he was confident he could also win over the one extra supporter he seeks.

"We have established a basis to form rather soon a government," he told reporters.

Rumour Peres' attempts to forge a new government and Shamir's efforts to block him were played out against a backdrop of rumour, confusion and unconvincing distrust.

Israel television quoted a Labour source as saying Peres would present his government before the 21 days granted by President Chaim Herzog expire on Monday, but a party official told Reuters no new ally had so far pledged support.

Throughout yesterday, radio commentators said Netanyahu, Economics Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was ready to cross the floor, but a statement by Mordechai later dismissed the reports.

The denial came after anxious Likud officials agreed to his requests for guaranteed parliamentary seats and cabinet portfolios as the price of continued support for Shamir.

Distrust In an open display of distrust, Mordechai also demanded a \$10 million bond to ensure the prime minister kept his word.

"A bank guarantee does not hurt anybody's honour, especially those who are known for not honouring their commitments. Whoever intends to fulfil his obligations shouldn't care if the bond is for 100 billion — he intends to keep his word so nobody will redeem the bond anyway," he told the television.

A report from the domestic Israeli news agency Ilim, summed up the atmosphere of uncertainty.

It quoted Labour negotiator Moshe Shabai as saying: "The Labour Party will convene a special parliamentary sitting on Thursday," to name a press government.

A correction followed soon after, instructing editors to add two words omitted from the quote.

"Please add at the beginning of the sentence the words, 'I hope,' it said.

Backing Peres guaranteed permanent Jewish settlement in the occupied territories yesterday to secure the backing of a religious party for his bid to become prime minister.

Agudat member Menachem Porush said Peres had assured him that he also had secured the one extra vote in Parliament needed to form a Labour government.

Porush said he did not know which of the 60 parliamentarians now aligned with Shamir planned to defect to Peres.

Peres has pledged to immediately start Israeli-Palestinian talks. He withdrew Labour from Shamir's coalition government last month because the prime minister refused to enter the US proposed negotiations in Cairo. Peres then directed Shamir's defeat in a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

Offer To ensure the continued backing of Agudat Israel, Peres offered two portfolios in his proposed cabinet, more housing construction and a guarantee to consult the religious party on the appointment of finance and justice ministers.

"In every democracy there is criticism... the real issue is how to proceed with the peace process," Peres said when asked about the price for the agreement.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Demand to put off polls: Seven Algerian opposition parties met President Chadli Benjedid yesterday to demand more time to prepare for the country's first free elections in June.

One of the participants, Social Democratic Party (PSD) President Abderrahmane Adjridj, told Reuters Chadli would respond in two to three days. (Reuters)

Arafat to visit Sri Lanka: The PLO leader Yasser Arafat is expected to visit Sri Lanka in May, sources said yesterday.

The sources said Arafat has accepted "an invitation extended by Mohamed Haniffa Mohamed, the...ankan Parliament Speaker, to visit Sri Lanka."

Mohamed met the PLO leader when both were in India on separate official tours recently. (Kuna)

Soviet Jews pouring in: More than 7,000 Soviet Jews poured into Israel during the month of March and even more appear to be arriving in early April, according to figures compiled by a Washington-based organisation.

Although the Hungarian airline Malev temporarily halted charter flights to Israel in late March, causing arrivals to slow slightly, more than 7,000 Soviet Jews emigrated last month, the national conference on Soviet Jewry, based here, said in its latest statistical report. (Kuna)

Chadian rebels claim losses: Chadian rebels claimed they inflicted heavy losses on government troops in recent battles along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

The rebels issued a statement saying they had killed "several hundred" troops and taken about 1,000 prisoners in attacks on garrisons at Tine, Iriba and Bahai. (AP)

IPI protests arrest in Sudan: The director of the International Press Institute has written to Sudan's head of state to protest the arrest of a part-time reporter for Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corp.

The journalist, Alfred Taban, is still under arrest in Khartoum.

"We consider your authorities' action a violation of internationally recognised standards of press freedom," IPI director Peter Galliner said in a letter to Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir. (AP)

French force to protect garrison: France sent troops to Chad last week to protect its dwindling garrison there rather than to confront Libyan forces, a senior government source said yesterday.

The source said the reinforcements were part of measures to safeguard a French squadron at Abeche military base, about 160 km (120 miles) from the Sudanese border, near an area where there had been fighting. (Reuters)

Anti-Arab sign triggers protest: The owner of an inner-city supermarket who hung out a sign promising his customers no Arabs would work in the store was under investigation by Chicago city officials yesterday.

Mayor Richard Daley called the affair a "disgrace" and said the city's human relations commission would investigate.

The grocery store is located in a neighbourhood where animosity has broken out before between Arab and Asian shopkeepers and local residents, most of whom are black. (Reuters)

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The source said the reinforcements were part of measures to safeguard a French squadron at Abeche military base, about 160 km (120 miles) from the Sudanese border, near an area where there had been fighting. (Reuters)

He said the Arab states had already begun talks with Western European nations on this issue and would extend

with the aim of gathering support for a new resolution at next year's general assembly.

"In this contrived debate that is being initiated in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senators are trying to outbid each other on who can describe the resolution in the most negative terms," he said.

The strategy is to keep massive Soviet-Jewish emigration to Palestine flowing under the cloak of human rights, while at the same time derailing peace efforts through attacks on the Zionism-racism resolution.

The dialogue to Eastern European countries as well as the Soviet Union.

Maksoud called a news conference to comment on the latest attack in the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Friday on a 1975 General Assembly resolution which equates Zionism with a form of racism.

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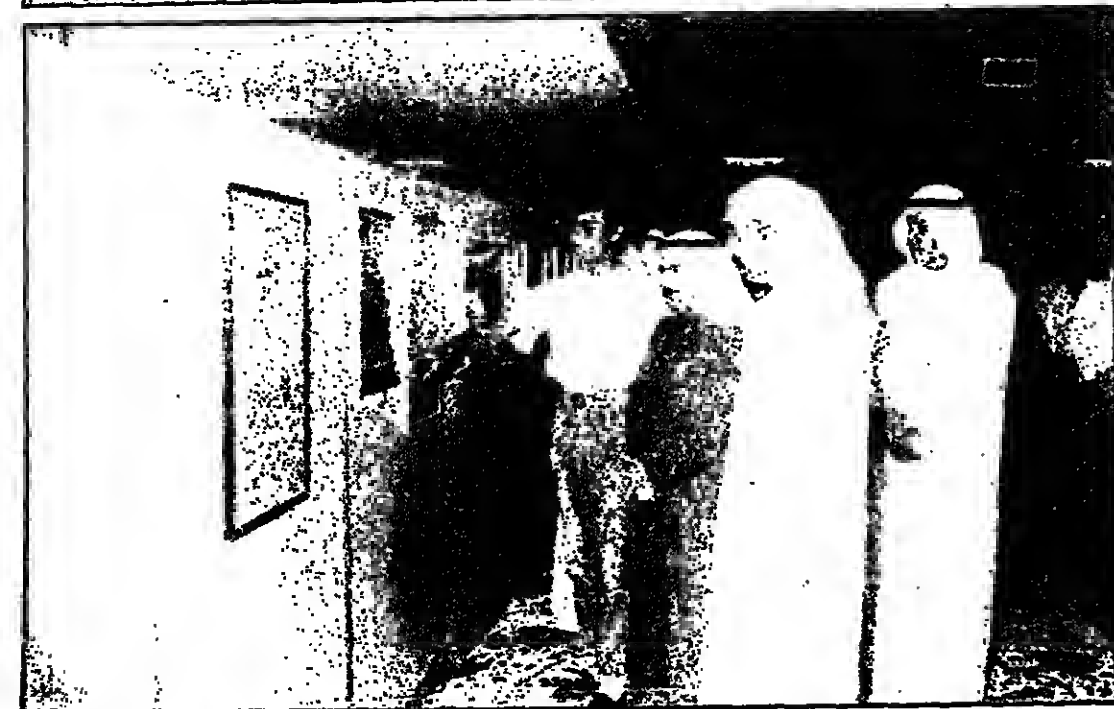
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EVENTS



CAC student's exhibition

The director of the Communications and Aviation Centre, Jassem Al Zanki inaugurated the Arts exhibition for the centre's students. Many paintings and artworks including drawing on glass and ceramic, wooden handicrafts and others, were exhibited.

GEF hosts Port Rashid video crew

THE Port Rashid distribution terminal of Gulf Express Freight — the freight forwarding arm of GAC — is being used as the setting for a promotional video aimed at highlighting Dubai's potential as a regional distribution centre.

The video, which last for between eight and ten minutes, is being produced by a UK company on behalf of Port Rashid. It is due to get its first airing at Eurofreight Brussels — the industry's key shop-window on the continent.

"We were more than happy to allow our terminal to be used as the background for the video and see it as a testament to the facilities GEF can offer and its understanding as Dubai's leading freight-forwarder," said GEF's marketing manager, Bill Hill.

Gulf Express Freight recently moved into a 28,000 sq ft transit and distribution warehouse situated within Port Rashid. The company has installed tiered racking systems to ensure the careful segregation of cargo which is all handled by GEF's own staff.

"Regional distribution via Dubai is a growing concept and we want to show international companies how it can work to their benefit," said Port Rashid's assistant marketing manager, Tony Condon.

Gulf Express Freight and the Port Rashid Authority are two of an eight-strong delegation from Dubai which is due to participate in the three-day Eurofreight Brussels which gets underway on April 9.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 Mama Anisa and Children: Local children programme
11.00 Children variety
11.15 Cultural film
12.05 Religious feature
12.15 A game show programme presented by the Social Reform Society (part 2)
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
2.00 Cabool adventures: Cartoon serial
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical Serial (part 10)
3.10 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 10)
3.35 Al Qabdhay Bahool: Arabic serial (part 10)
4.25 Rasael Al Ekha: Local religious programme
4.45 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 10)
5.30 Hadeeth Deni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
6.25 Mazenger: Cartoon serial
6.45 Baada Al Eftar: Religious feature
7.00 Madeenat Al Ajaeb: Local children serial (part 10)
7.45 Nighi chemists, airlines and official advertisements
8.15 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 10)
9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
10.00 News in Arabic
10.45 The Family: Local

- serial (part 10)
11.30 3x3: Local game show (part 10)
12.15 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 10)
1.15 Welad Al Eih: Arabic feature film, starring Merfat Ameen, Ahmad Zaki, Salah Zo Al Foqar, Hala Sudqi
3.00 News summary
3.05 The World Today via Satellite
3.20 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 The Children magazine: Local children programme, prepared by Ameena Khayri.
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches.
12.30 A special programme on Zakat: Local programme prepared by Kuwait Zakat House.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
2.00 Cabool adventures: Cartoon serial
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 11)
3.15 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 11)
3.35 Al Qabdhay Bahool: Arabic serial (part 11)
4.30 Rasael Al Ekha: Religious programme (part 11)
5.30 Hadeeth Deni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
6.25 Mazenger: Cartoon serial
6.45 Baad Al Eftar: Religious feature

- gious feature
7.00 Local children serial: Madeenat Al Ajaeb (part 11)
7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
8.15 The Family Programme: Local programme
9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme
10.00 News in Arabic
10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 11)
11.30 3x3: Local game show (part 11)
12.15 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 11)
1.15 Black and White.
2.00 News summary
2.05 The World Today via Satellite
2.20 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening: Announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children
8.30 Mr Wizard's World.
8.00 News in English.
9.30 Welcome Ramadan.
9.45 Beauty and the Beast.
10.30 The Bill Cosby Show: Cosby's son-in-law succeeds in finding a flat near the place of his work... but matters do not work.
11.00 Just for the Record: A Russian at 75 years of age and still physically fit! A young girl wins the title of Miss America... Neon most famous showrooms... Life insurance against crocodile attacks.
11.30 Feature film: Along with Terror. Starring Juliet Mills, Colby Chester, Virginia Vincent.
1.30 News in Brief
1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

- 8.00 Opening: Announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Popeye and Son: A cartoon series for children.
8.30 Think Again: Gold, diamonds... Symbols denoting ranks and positions.
9.00 News in English.
9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
9.45 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.
10.00 Islam in Focus: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
10.30 Globe TV: The world language... Pop music... a trip to the North Pole... and Afghanistan...
11.00 Tales from the Dark-side: "Slippage": A young man feels that everything is lost from him.
11.30 Roseanne: Chicken Hearts. Roseanne is employed by Bryan who has a restaurant and works as a teacher. In order to come to good terms with him, Rosie suggests that her husband Dan may repair Bryan's car!
12.00 Wiseguy: "The Battle of the Barge": Moby: a mafia member attempts to deprive Albert another member from his trade in garbage where a Chinese businessman and owner of a factory of plastic explosives attempts to kill "Albert".
1.30 News in Brief
1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).
The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.
All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

PAC's Silver Jubilee
THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.
Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Rose Ferns' drama
MAY 10-11. Expatriate Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxé" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Ladies International League
LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait
Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam) — in big hall.

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English): 9.00 pm. Adoration (English) — in the big hall.
Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam): 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani): 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 5.30 pm.

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English): 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall): 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Saligaocars
CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res). Aloco Carvalho. 2411442 Res. 246121. Americo Remedios. Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz. Res. 2447729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401. Res. 2412337.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan". The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb. 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

Approb Eid Milan Party
Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising its traditional Eid Milan Party at the SAS Hotel Ballroom, on the second of Eid Al Fitr.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.
There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 5222647.

Sindhu Devi
PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes alive at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.
Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Abmad, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Passion Week

The English Language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

8th April — Palm Sunday — Worship from 6 pm to 7.30 pm.
11th April — Wednesday — The choir will present Easter Cantata from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.
15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am.
Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata". All are welcome.

British Council
The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Anglican services
PAUL'S Church, Ahmadi Anglican services Maundy Thursday, 8 pm, The Last Supper.
Good Friday, 2 pm, The Cross of Christ, 7 pm United Service Easter Day, 8.30 am, Holy Communion; 11.30 am Lunchtime family service; 12.30 pm Lunchtime communion; 6.30 pm Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group; 7.30-8 pm Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Kuwait Plaza
SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, ramadan drinks and a special buffet.
NOURA TERRACE: Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, ramadan drinks, hubbly-bubble and trick trail in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER:
Invites you to spend an evening with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

Tourist Restaurant
KNOWN for Indian Pakistani tandoori/curry dishes with seven types of bread. Ramadan timings take away service 5 pm onward regular dine 6 pm to 1 pm. For further information contact. Tele. 2411702.

HOTELS

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughal cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka, Mal Mili Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carry away pick ups from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tel. 2425131 2.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel
ALMUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohour: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

SPORTS

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies' and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month on Sundays and Tuesdays, or Mondays and Wednesdays. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (recreation)

Hyderabad Sports Day
The committee for sports for celebration of 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (or next day of Id) at Juleeb Al Shuwik ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuwik cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows: 9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans 12 to 2 pm: Break for Prayer and lunch 2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agents. 5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration of the festivities by Chief guest and Ambassador of India Sri Arun Kumar Budhiraja and prize distribution by Mrs Budhiraja.

The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years

(relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578). All Hyderabadis are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

Messilah Beach Hotel Club
WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.
WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.
Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.

PRAYERS

Imrak	4.02 am
Fajr	4.12
Zohr	11.51
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.09
Isha	7.27
FRIDAY	
Imrak	4.01 am
Fajr	4.11
Zohr	11.51
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.10
Isha	7.28

Bajwa says goodbye

NAZEER Bajwa bids goodbye to Kuwait this weekend.

Bajwa came to Kuwait in early 1967 and remained attached to the general insurance sector since then.

A large group of his friends hosted a farewell in his honour. He thanks his friends and prays for the prosperity of Kuwait.

Bajwa plans to start a business in his hometown, Sialkot, Pakistan. Good luck Bajwa.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Andulus Street Justice
Al Sahmiah Malone
Al Hamra Hell on the Battle Ground
Drive-in Arabic film
Al Firdous Nigahen
Fahabool Open Jyoti Bane Jwala
Fahabool Bhul Bichar
Al Jahra Arabic film
Granada Blue Igwana
Salaibikat Nadeen Vazhikhal
Jeeb Na Insaafi
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film

FRIDAY
Al Andulus Street Justice
Al Sahmiah Malone
Al Hamra Hell on the Battle Ground
Drive-in Arabic film
Al Firdous Nigahen
Fahabool Open Jyoti Bane Jwala
Fahabool Bhul Bichar
Al Jahra Distant Thunder
Granada Rolling Vengeance
Salaibikat Mob War
Jeeb Sone Ke Dil Lobe Ka Hath
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film



Cathay Pacific sponsored UCHR

Cathay Pacific Airways sponsored the 'Unitag Cup Horse Race', which was organised by the Bahrain Equestrian Club. Seen in the photo is the winning owner of the event, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Isa Al Khalifa, receiving his prize from Mohammed Jaffar, Cathay's sales representative.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Energy file

OECD oil use up in first quarter

PARIS, April 4, (UPI) — Oil consumption by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries rose 0.5 per cent during the first quarter over the same period last year to 36.7 million barrels per day, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

The agency said oil consumption by OECD countries during the second quarter of this year should increase by 1.5 per cent over the second quarter in 1989 to 36.5 million barrels per day.

The agency added that spot prices for all major crude oils continued to fall last month and were 15 to 20 per cent lower than at their highest levels in early January.

It said that for all of 1990 OECD oil consumption should be 1 per cent higher than last year to 38 million barrels per day.

Consumption in North America for all of 1990 is expected to average 19.3 million barrels per day, an increase of 0.5 per cent from last year. Consumption by European OECD countries should rise 1.5 per cent over 1989 to 12.8 million barrels per day.

The OECD Pacific region should see a 3 per cent consumption increase to 6 million barrels per day.

The agency estimated world consumption outside the OECD area and not including the centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe will average 53.3 million barrels per day this year, a 2 per cent increase over 1989.

Oil production by OECD countries in March was estimated at 16 million barrels per day, 200,000 barrels higher above the revised February production levels, mainly as a result of higher estimated production by Canada, the United Kingdom and Norway.

The crude oil output by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was estimated at 23.7 million barrels per day in both February and March, according to the agency report.

The report said Saudi Arabia produced an estimated 5.6 million barrels per day in March compared with 5.5 million barrels per day the previous month. Iran was the only other country to increase output in March, producing 3.1 million barrels per day compared with 2.9 million in February.

Kuwait's production was reported to have remained steady in March from February at 1.8 million barrels per day. Iraq produced 3 million barrels per day of crude oil, the same in February.

Libya and Venezuela were the only two countries to have reported reduced production levels, with the former's output declining to 1.3 million barrels per day from 1.4 million in February while the latter produced 1.9 million barrels per day in March from 2 million in February.

Oil prices rebounded in moderate trading, boosted by the sharp 2.7 per cent recovery in Tokyo and a stronger British pound. The FT 30 index gained 13.2 to close at 1,761.3.

Cooperation — Iraqi Oil Minister Isam Abdul-Rahim Al-Chalabi said on Wednesday Baghdad wants to boost technical and economic cooperation and cultural exchanges with Japan, a senior Japanese official reported.

Development of Iraqi industry and expansion of its oil production capacity would also benefit Japan, Chalabi was quoted as telling Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Petroleum — East Germany is planning to open its petroleum market to Western oil companies as part of efforts to rebuild an economy in tatters after 40 years of communist mismanagement.

Klaus Eibner, director of the state-run Min Oil Company which has a monopoly on fuel distribution, told the ADN News Agency on Tuesday that plans being made "would allow Western oil companies to supply the domestic market."

Decline — US crude oil prices declined in quiet trading Tuesday as the market anticipated that an oil industry survey would again show a substantial buildup in the nation's inventories.

The benchmark West Texas intermediate crude for May delivery dropped 18 cents to end the day on the New York mercantile exchange at \$20.30 a barrel, after opening near its high of \$20.55 a barrel.

Agreement — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has signed a foreign trade agreement worth \$10 million with the Yemeni Refinery Company in South Yemen, it has been reported here.

The credit is designed to help the refinery import quantities of crude oil and refined products from an unspecified IDB member state.

Contracts — Indonesia's state-owned oil company, Pertamina, will soon sign seven new oil production-sharing contracts with foreign firms, according to a company executive here.

Alex Frederik, head of the company's division responsible for co-operation with foreign contractors, said two of the contracts — with Huffco and Atlantic Richfield — would provide for expansion of existing operations.

'Securing finance for oil output rise not insurmountable'

KUWAIT, April 4, (Opecnat) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) says it believes that securing the finances necessary for expanding production capacities of oil exporting countries is not "insurmountable."

An editorial in the April edition of the Opec monthly "Bulletin" released here, is in answer to concerns voiced in some oil industry quarters as to how the necessary funding for expanding production capacities would be made.

The publication says that oil producing countries had on many occasions expressed their willingness to produce the quantities required for world econ-

omic growth.

"They have backed up their statements with concrete plans for expanding production capacities and increasing exports," it points out.

"These countries have sufficient oil reserves to last for many decades," says the editorial, stressing that Opec oil reserves in 1989 totalled 600 billion barrels, against 340 billion in 1980.

It says there was a "high probability" that more discoveries would be made in most Opec member countries since exploration efforts were still in their early stages, "a fact that is well known to everyone concerned with the oil industry."

The publication notes that some oil producing countries were able to finance their own projects, while others required outside help, noting that "as long as reserves exist, financing should not pose a problem," even if it came from foreign sources.

"Capital always flows to the most secure and profitable investments," it maintains, adding that the real obstacle to expanding production capacity was uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries would fare.

The oil markets were "still swayed heavily by transient factors" and long-term consumption forecasts were subject to constant revision.

"The devastating effect of surplus capacity on economic growth in Opec member countries is still apparent," it notes.

The editorial states that if true world economic growth was to be achieved, "a frank, constructive dialogue must be established between producers and consumers, industrialised and developing countries."

Only in this way, it says, could the obstacles be overcome and "bridges of mutual understanding" built, leading to a clearer picture of future world oil demand.

The publication observes that the oil producing countries had "spared no

effort" in fostering understanding with the oil consuming states.

This had been witnessed by the large number of meetings, symposiums and lectures organised by Opec and Opec in conjunction with institutions in the industrialised countries, such as the European Economic Community (EEC), with the aim of promoting understanding.

"The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands, are there any tankers?" the publication asks.

Concerning speculation on consumer countries' raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on crude imports, it says this only served to

exacerbate the "dilemma" oil exporters were in.

The publication declares that another problem was related to the extensive campaign being launched against oil products "in the name of environmental protection."

This campaign, it says, portrayed oil as the most polluting energy source, although coal "is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous," as the Chernobyl disaster had demonstrated "so poignantly."

It stresses: "We are naturally concerned with protecting the environment on local and global levels, because it affects our very existence."

Opec production steady in March

Output increase likely

BRUSSELS, April 4, (AP) — Opec nations held oil production steady in March but at a level more than a million barrels a day above their self-imposed supply cap, according to estimates released yesterday.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped a total of about 23.7 million barrels a day in March, the same as in the previous month, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

But, it said, "sales of Opec crude oil in March are believed to be lower than this level due to the evident excess supply of heavy, sour grades and weaker-than-expected demand from refiners."

Private analysts predicted Opec would increase output even more this month.

"It seems it will go up in April, maybe to as much as 24 million barrels a day," said Pierre Terzian, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petrostrategies.

Leading the surge in last month's production were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Nigeria, according to the International Energy Agency's monthly oil market report. All were estimated to be above the individual quotas set for each country by the group last year and reaffirmed at a recent meeting in Vienna.

The organisation imposed a ceiling of 22.1 million barrels a day for production in the first half of the year. But members have not been adhering to their quotas.

"Oil prices soared in early January but have been gradually slipping since then, falling in early March below the Opec's target of \$18 a barrel."

The average price of a basket of seven crudes monitored by the agency was \$17.33 a barrel in the last week of March, down from \$17.47 in the previous week.

Prices of West Texas intermediate, the key US grade, have been running the range of \$20 to \$22 a barrel.

In an effort to keep prices firm, Opec oil ministers met last month and issued a fresh call for restraint by all nations in the normally weak April-June quarter.

Analysts say that if Opec keeps production high, prices will weaken in the coming months. The softening of oil prices will have little impact on gasoline prices at the pump.

Demand for crude normally slumps in the second quarter when spring weather warms the United States and other consuming nations. The International Energy Agency predicted demand for Opec oil at 20.4 million barrels a day in the current quarter.

"People have been saying production may be higher rather than lower (in April). We have had two months of a touch below 24 million barrels a day. It's unlikely to come down very much," said Nick Anttil, oil analyst at county Natwest in London.

A specialised oil publications has suggested that Opec crude oil output was rising "relentlessly" and looks set to touch the 24-million barrel a day mark in April, after climbing another 200,000 barrel per day last month.

Kuwait petrochemical complex

Plant to cost \$3b

KUWAIT, April 4, (Reuters) — The total cost of a petrochemical complex which Kuwait planners approved last month could be \$3 billion, a senior Kuwaiti economist said yesterday.

He said the original estimated cost of the eight-plan complex of 600 million dinars (\$2 billion) was expected to rise 50 per cent.

The official said the plant, to be financed by local sources, would start production in 1994.

"Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah wants it to come on stream as soon as possible because it has a major role in backing Kuwaiti industrial and petrochemical projects," he said.

He hoped the project would soon be opened for international bidding.

The complex, part of Kuwait's plans to boost exports of refined products, will use domestic naphtha and natural gas as feedstock to produce polythene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower interest rate: The United States believes the stage has been set for lower interest rates both at home and in other industrial countries, a senior US treasury official said on Tuesday in Montreal.

Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary John Nichols said that while inflation signals remain, they suggest a lower course for prices, "creating the right environment for lower US interest rates."

Nichols made his remarks to the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank. His comments were good news for the Latin debt or countries which would benefit from lower rates in servicing their financial obligations. (Reuters)

British, Siberian trade deal: A British management consulting firm said Tuesday it reached a deal with the Siberian region of Tomsk to help it develop international trade worth more than 2.6 billion pounds (\$4.3 billion).

The company, Doctus Plc, said it signed a 15-year contract to help Tomsk sell its resources for hard currency, and assist the region in spending that money on equipment and other imports to help develop the area.

Saudi bank reports increased profit: The United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) said on Tuesday its unaudited first quarter 1990 results showed a net profit of 26.8 million Saudi riyals (\$7.1 million), a rise of 56.3 per cent over the same period in 1989.

USCB said a statement received in Cyprus that its 1989 first quarter net profit was 16.9 million riyals (\$4.5 million). Net profit for all of 1989 was 95.3 million riyals (\$25.4 million). (Reuters)

Saudi interbank market inactive: Dealers reported an extremely quiet day on the Saudi interbank deposit market as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan entered its second week.

The lack of activity was attributed to the impending weekend and there was no discernible movement in rates. The spot riyal was being quoted at 3.7512/15 to the dollar. (Reuters)

Short dates ease: Short dates eased on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market, dealers said.

Liquidity in the market meant that short dates were well offered, with overnight being offered at 8-3/8 per cent. Spot/next was being quoted at 8-1/8 to 8-1/4, and one week 8-3/8 to 8-5/8.

There was no activity in fixed dates and rates remained unchanged. (Reuters)

Japan passes stop-gap budget: Japan's Parliament on Wednesday passed a 10,200 billion yen (\$64 billion) stop-gap budget to cover the first 50 days of the 1990 fiscal year that began on April 1, parliamentary officials said.

The opposition-dominated upper house of Parliament rejected the government-sponsored budget earlier in the day, but it was overruled by the more powerful lower house. (Reuters)

Index of US fiscal indicators plunges

WASHINGTON, April 4, (AP) — The government's main economic forecasting gauge plunged 1.0 per cent in February, its steepest drop in nine months, the government said yesterday. But analysts said the decrease was misleading.

The Commerce Department said yesterday its latest index of leading economic indicators — designed to forecast US economic activity six to nine months in advance — wiped out three months of increases with the largest decline since a 1.1 per cent fall last May.

But analysts said the report was an aberration caused by a record 25 per cent drop in building permits in February from January's 26.8 per cent gain as builders took advantage of warm weather and tried to beat deadlines for new government regulations.

"It would have been down just 0.2 per cent without the disturbing effect of the building permits," said David Jones, an economist with Aubrey G. Lamson and Co., a government securities dealer in New York.

Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York, said the gauge would bounce back next month to its levels of late 1989 and early 1990. The index rose 0.1 per cent in November, 0.4 per cent in December and 0.2 per cent in January.

Nevertheless, seven of the 11 statistics in the index were down which analysts interpreted as meaning a soft economy, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

"February's leading indicators show a substantial industrial rebound is likely to occur in the next six months," said William K. Macreynolds, forecasting director for the US chamber of commerce.

But Jones added, "recent signals suggest that while the goods-producing sector is still flat, it's not getting any worse and there's no evidence that its weakness is spreading to other sectors."

According to a recent survey of 51 top economists by Blue Chip Economic Indicators in Sedona, Arizona, the Gross National Product — the nation's output of goods and services — will avoid a recession and grow 1.7 per cent in 1990.

But the survey concluded that the economic outlook "remains the most sluggish since the recession year of 1982." The economy grew 3 per cent last year, although it slowed to 1.1 per cent in the final quarter.

The United States debt has reached three trillion dollars, the Treasury Department announced yesterday.

The massive figure, representing more than \$12,000 for every man, woman and child in the United States, was reached on Monday the government said.

The exact figure is \$3,023,167,000,000 and it is growing rapidly. By comparison, it took World War II to bring the national debt to \$250 billion in 1945.

Gold gains, dollar mixed Tokyo stocks decline

TOKYO, April 4, (AP) — The Tokyo stock exchange's chief index erased its morning gains and fell back sharply in the afternoon today, while the US dollar declined marginally against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average ended trading down 316.78 points or 1.10 per cent, at 28,442.94.

After reversing its 212.05-point morning gain, the index dropped steeply during the afternoon, then narrowed its deficit by about 350 points with a rally in the last 20 minutes of trading, helped in part by arbitrage buying, traders said.

A Nomura securities trader attributed the index' afternoon fall to broad declines in speculative shares that triggered selling of other issues, and to profit-taking from shares that had advanced in the past week.

The trader spoke on condition of anonymity.

Prompted by growing concern that some speculators may be in financial trouble, the Nikkei index fell quickly as investors tried to get rid of speculative shares, including some local bank issues, he said.

Betty Wu, an analyst with SBCI Securities Asia Ltd., said the afternoon's drop resulted in part from index selling, as individuals were trying to curb their losses.

She predicted relatively quiet trading in the next few weeks because corporations have just closed their books on fiscal 1989, which ended March 31, and are deciding future investment strategies.

Trading today was thin, with volume on the market's first section estimated at 560 million shares, down from yesterday's 650 million.

The Nikkei index yesterday gained 757.65 points, following Monday's drop of 1,978.38 points, or 6.59 per cent, in the index's second-largest single-day decline. The plunge followed a 1,045.71-point fall in the index last Friday.

In currency dealings, the dollar closed at 158.90 yen, down 0.05 yen from Tuesday's close of 158.95 yen. It opened higher at 159.62 yen and ranged between 158.70 yen and 159.70 yen.

The dollar started higher following overnight gains in New York, but the currency gradually fell in Tokyo as market players — mainly life insurance and securities houses — sold the dollar against the yen in an attempt to reduce their dollar holdings ahead of the meeting of the Group of Seven key currency nations scheduled for April 7 in Paris, said Mamoru Tabata, a dealer with the Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank.

"Market players began to reduce their dollar holdings in case the G-7 meeting comes up with something they had not predicted, although nothing special is expected at the moment," he said.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno is to leave for the meeting in Paris on Friday.

Some investors also sold the dollar for profit-taking. Tabata said.

"But the yen's strength is likely

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.170
Sri Lankan rupee	7.440
Pakistani rupee	13.790
Bangladesh taka	8.630
US dollar	29460
Pound sterling	48275
UAE dirham	08017
Deutsche mark	17375
Japanese yen	001860

to last only temporarily," he added.

A dealer with the Bank of Tokyo, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US currency rose in New York overnight because of speculation the US Federal Reserve Board has halted its support for the yen in an attempt to pressure Japan to make trade concessions in talks with the United States now under way in Washington.

"The rumour has been in the market for some time, and it was brought up again in New York. Such speculation has been already factored into the market here," the Bank of Tokyo dealer said.

The price of Benchmark No 119 Japanese government bonds closed at 86.45 points, down from Tuesday's close at 86.51. Their yield rose to 7.260 per cent from Tuesday's 7.245 per cent.

Dollar mixed — Wall Street took the Tokyo stock market's rebound and built it into a full-blown rally on Tuesday, pushing stock prices sharply higher.

The dollar closed mixed and bond prices rose slightly.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 36.26 points, or 1.34 per cent, to close at 2,736.71. In the broader market, rising issues beat losers by better than two-to-one.

After days of light trading, investors stepped off the sidelines, boosting volume to a moderate 154.3 million shares.

"Everyone came in very much encouraged today. There were buy programmes on top of an already confident market," said Jeffrey Kaminski at Mabon Nugent and Co.

Traders cited the rise in Tokyo, where stocks managed a comeback from Monday's second-biggest point decline ever.

After a day of fluctuations, the key 225-share Nikkei index surged 757.65 points on Tuesday, or 2.71 per cent, to close at 28,759.72, its seventh-largest point gain ever.

Wall Street also got a boost from comments by a senior deputy assistant treasury secretary John Nibuss, who said inflation signals, while mixed, suggest a decline in US inflation over the course of the year, creating the "right environment" for lower rates.

The dollar climbed still higher against the Japanese yen but eased against the West German mark and most other currencies.

The dollar closed at 159.70 yen, up from 158.90 on Monday but it slipped to 1.6985 marks from 1.7010 marks.

Shares higher — Share prices finished higher on London's stock exchange Tuesday.

Some people are saying they should sell now but I think we could go a lot higher," said Max Boule of BNP Securities.

"Interest rates could go lower, the pressure is off the franc and earnings are very good. It all looks very positive."

day, boosted by a strong opening on Wall Street.

Shares jumped early in trading on the back of a good performance in Tokyo. Some aggressive stock-index futures buying also cheered the London market, and the two factors sent the Financial Times stock exchange 100-share index up about 12 points.

But with no subsequent follow-through buying, the index drifted off to a show a loss.

However Wall Street's gain and other factors conspired during the afternoon to drive the market higher again.

Dealers cited additional futures buying, revived bid speculation in a handful of major shares, a steady pound and a shortage of blue chip stocks.

By the end of the European afternoon, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 19.39 points at 2,720.05.

Gold gains — The US dollar finished mixed against major foreign currencies in light trading Tuesday as dealers lacked incentives to buy or sell heavily.

Gold gained in trading at home and abroad. On the commodity exchange in New York, gold bullion for April delivery settled at \$375.30 a troy ounce, up \$5.50 from Monday. Later, Republic National Bank of New York quoted a troy ounce of gold at \$375.25 as of 4 pm EDT (2000 GMT), 53 higher than Monday's late bid.

Currency dealers said the dollar traded in a narrow range of much of the day. Renewed demand to buy dollars against the Japanese yen in particular surfaced in afternoon US trading and pushed the dollar higher.

The dollar ended in New York at 159.76 yen, up from 158.65 yen on Monday.

But in Tokyo trading, which ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar declined to 158.95 yen, 1.00 yen lower than Monday's close. In London, the dollar traded at 159.10 yen.

Bourse soars — The Paris stock market surged to new highs this morning on news that leading French banks had cut their base interest rates, and dealers said the bourse looked set to climb further.

The CAC-40 index burst through its previous high of 2,006.42 at 0905 GMT, minutes after two major French banks said they had cut their base rates to 10.8 per cent from 11.0 per cent. Towards mid-day in Paris, the index was almost 1.3 per cent higher at 2,010.64, up 25.09 from yesterday's close.

Dealers said the market has been gearing up in recent weeks for this leap, taking its strength from the franc's strong performance against the West German mark, a string of excellent 1989 earnings from blue chip companies and a Bank of France decision on Monday to cut key interest rates.

"Some people are saying they should sell now but I think we could go a lot higher," said Max Boule of BNP Securities.

"Interest rates could go lower, the pressure is off the franc and earnings are very good. It all looks very positive."

GM tops Forbes, Fortune titans list

\$4.2b earnings despite cutthroat rebates

NEW YORK, April 4, (AP) — Fortune and Forbes magazines found one thing they could agree on yesterday, proclaiming General Motors Corp. the nation's largest public company in their two competing lists of US corporate titans.

The Fortune 500 list ranked the nation's largest industrial firms by sales. The Forbes ranking included all public companies measured by sales, profits, assets and stock market value.

Both magazines have issued 500 rankings for years, but this was the first time in recent memory that the lists were released the same day. In an effort to upstage its competitor, Forbes topped its ranking with a "super 50," it described as the most powerful companies across all categories.

GM was on top either way, with nearly \$127 billion in sales and \$4.2 billion in earnings during 1989, despite fierce foreign competition and cutthroat rebates that dampened business for all big

three automakers — GM, Ford and Chrysler.

The Fortune 500 overall also had a profit decline in 1989 after years of strong growth, reflecting the slowdown in industrial America.

Behind GM, Fortune's top 10 were: Ford Motor Co., Exxon Corp., International Business Machines Corp., General Electric Co., Mobil Corp., Philip Morris Cos., Chrysler Corp., E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Co., and Texaco Inc.

Rounding out the top 10 of the Forbes super 500 were: GM, Exxon, IBM, Ford, Philip Morris, American Telephone and Telegraph Corp., Mobil, Du Pont de Nemours and Co., and Texaco Inc.

The Fortune 500 list appears in the April 23 edition and is available on newsstands today. Forbes released its ranking two weeks before it is to the stands in the April 30 edition.

Fortune 500 sales jumped 1 per cent to a record \$2.16 trillion in 1989, but overall earnings fell 8.2

Mighty Japanese banks humbled by regulators, markets

TOKYO, April 4. (AP) Japan's leading banks, which bumped US competitors from the world's top 10 list in the 1980s, are finding themselves squeezed by higher costs, reduced business and the Tokyo stock market's slide.

"The advantage Japanese banks used to enjoy has been largely eradicated... the whole perspective of international banking is considerably changed," said David Threadgold, an analyst with County Natwest Securities.

Paul Heaton, senior analyst at W1 Carr securities, predicts that profits at the 13 leading commercial banks dropped 11 per cent for the fiscal year ended March 31. In the

previous year, profits rose 25 per cent.

Leaving out income from equities sales, earnings from banking business may be down by 50 per cent from fiscal 1988, Threadgold said.

In addition, the fall of the yen and Japan's stock market have imperiled the banks' plans to raise their capital levels to meet international standards set for 1993.

"Management at top banks feel we have entered a very difficult period. But we are not going to see any bankruptcies," said Teruyuki Takahashi, a senior manager at the Japanese

Federation of Bankers' Associations.

The world's 10 biggest banks in assets are Japanese. Sheer size will keep them there, but they will become weaker competitors abroad as their source of cheap funds dries up, Threadgold said.

Rising interest rates have made it more expensive for banks to acquire funds for lending. Banks now are paying holders of money market certificates 5.8 per cent interest, compared with the 0.75 per cent paid on ordinary bank accounts.

Furthermore, more customers now can buy money market certificates because the min-

imum purchase has been cut from the equivalent of \$62,500 to \$6,250.

Meanwhile, business from income-producing loans has been chilled by higher interest rates and by government efforts to cool the feverish property market.

Japan's Central Bank has raised its key rate for loans to commercial banks from 2.5 per cent to 5.25 per cent in the past 10 months. In turn, commercial banks' prime lending rates jumped from about 5.5 per cent to around 7.2 per cent.

"The speed of change is too fast," Takahashi said.

At the same time, the bank of Japan has instructed banks to keep property loan growth in line with the industry's overall loan growth, instead of their recent pace of double the overall rate. The move is aimed at helping cool property prices that have jumped 50 per cent to 90 per cent annually in Tokyo and other major cities since the mid-1980s.

Banks have been dealt a double blow by the rapid change. They are paying higher rates on customer certificates but are earning relatively low interest rates on long-term past loans. Anticipating higher rates, many companies rushed to take out long-term loans

over the past year, Heaton said.

Furthermore, loan volume is down, said Yoshiaki Takanashi, chief of Yasuda Trust Bank. Businesses are more of their funds from other sources, simply putting off capital spending, he said.

Heaton said loan growth, which had expanded at 12 per cent to 14 per cent a year, was less than 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, the rapid fall of the yen and stock market has hurt the banks' attempt to meet international capital adequacy standards, said Takanashi, at Yasuda Trust.

Japan economy losing ground

Concern at Washington talks

TOKYO, April 4. (AP) Japan's sinking stock market and weakening yen reflect a growing lack of confidence in the nation's economy and worry over expected changes in its structure, analysts said yesterday.

Traders said many investors are concerned about the outcome of trade talks now underway between the United States and Japan in Washington on the structural causes of that nation's \$49-billion trade imbalance.

In the talks, called the structural impediments initiative, the United States has pressured Japan to boost its public works spending, simplify its complex distribution system, ease the way for large retailers to open stores, and tighten enforcement of its anti-monopoly law.

"Japan will have to make a series of changes in the structural talks, and will have to forget about the old structures that supported our stock market boom and the strong yen in the past," said Kenji Maeshiro, a stock analyst with Yamaichi Securities Co.

US, Japan work on trade deficit

Many differences remain

WASHINGTON, April 4. (Reuters) US and Japanese officials worked into the night yesterday weighing hundreds of proposals on how to cut the big American trade deficit with Japan, but problems arose with some of the ideas.

One trade official said, however, that they were taking the attitude that it was "better to be right than fast."

Trade sources close to the two days of talks said the United States was not satisfied with Japanese reluctance to scrap a law giving small shops the power to veto the opening of super-

markets, which tend to stock foreign products. The United States, for its part, rebuffed Japanese proposals in the structural impediments talks that it take tough action to cut its budget deficit, increase savings and approve new taxes to curtail consumer spending.

Nobuo Matsunaga, a special envoy sent by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to stress Japan's commitment to resolving the disputes, is to meet with President George Bush today.

US officials said after Monday's meetings that good progress had been made in the series of talks which started last summer but until now had made little progress.

They added, however, that many differences remained before an interim report could be issued in mid-April.

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They added, however, that many differences remained before an interim report could be issued in mid-April.

"What we need now is to have a new approach to stock investment in order to cope with the new economic structures and policies," he said.

So far this year, the Tokyo stock exchange's Nikkei stock average has fallen more than 10,000 points, or 26 per cent, from a record 38,915.78 at the end of 1989.

The market's total value also has dropped quickly — at the close of trading yesterday, it stood at 456.8 trillion yen (\$2.87 trillion), down from 611.15 trillion yen (\$3.84 trillion) at the end of last year.

The recent string of stock market plunges was topped by Monday's drop of 1,978.38 points, or 6.59 per cent, in the Nikkei's second-largest single-day dive ever, as the US dollar surged to a three-year high against the Japanese yen.

The only larger single-day loss was during the "Black Monday" global stock crash on Oct. 20, 1987, when the Nikkei shed 3,836.48 points, or 14.9 per cent, to close at 21,910.08.

As the market has continued its steep declines securities dealers and analysts have repeatedly lowered their predictions for the Nikkei's bottom, with most estimates now near the 27,000-level.

Following yesterday's 757.65-point, or 2.7 per cent, rebound, traders' predictions were divided. Some said the market had bottomed out, while others said market nervousness and pessimism would continue in coming weeks.

Joseo Takahashi, chief economist at the Mitsubishi Research Institute, said the market plunges had their origin in recent inflationary pressure.

Due in part to the yen's weakness, wholesale prices rose a relatively high 3.8 per cent in the second 10 days of March from a year earlier, as Japan posted a \$4.907 billion current account surplus in February, down 32.4 per cent from a year earlier.

Takahashi said inflationary pressures began forming last year, when market players disregarded rising short-term interest rates and continued to push up share prices, going against economic fundamentals.

To catch up with the rising short-term interest rates, the Bank of Japan last year boosted its key official discount rate three times, from 2.5 per cent to 4.25 per cent, followed by an additional 1 per cent point hike on March 25 this year to 5.25 per cent.

Market players had expected the most recent increase to come shortly after parliamentary elections on Feb. 18, and blamed the extended delay with further destabilising stock prices and the yen.

Despite its recent heavy market intervention, the Bank of Japan, the nation's central bank, had been unable to halt the yen's decline.

Because of the intervention, Japan's foreign currency and gold reserves suffered their largest fall ever in March, dropping \$6.947 billion to \$73.496 billion, the Finance Ministry reported Monday.



Helping hand

A Chinese labourer gets a helping hand from his co-worker as they carry boxes down a Hong Kong street on Tuesday. Commercial unloading of goods is often performed in this fashion because of the steep narrow alleys in the city. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tunisia's accession on July 1

GATT rejects EEC charges

GENEVA, April 4. (Agencies) A GATT disputes panel yesterday rejected European Economic Community charges that it had been world trade rules by faulting anti-dumping measures the EEC took against some Japanese assembly plants in Europe.

Delegate sources said that a member of the three-man panel took the unusual step of responding to the EEC complaints when the panel report came before a regular session of the ruling council of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Once panel reports are submitted, discussion is usually confined to delegations from the world trade forum's 96 member states.

The panel upheld a Japanese complaint that EEC duties imposed by Brussels on Japanese electronic products assembled at plants within the community were contrary to GATT rules, and it recommended that they should be amended.

The EEC argued the duties were justified because Japanese firms were circumventing anti-dumping duties on these goods by shipping parts to be assembled at what it calls "screwdriver plants" inside the community.

Dumping is the practice of selling imports at prices below those charged by the producer on its domestic market.

The panel member, Tim Groser of New Zealand, hit back in answer to a letter he said the EEC had sent to the panel challenging its findings and asking it to reconsider them.

EEC delegate Christoph Bail followed up the letter with a verbal attack at the council session.

He said the panel findings were based on "a formalistic and extremely narrow interpretation of GATT rules which seems out-

only contrary to common sense, but also contrary to established principles of interpretation of international law."

"The panel seems to fundamentally misrepresent the very nature of GATT and ignore well-established principles of interpretation of international agreements," Bail added.

He said the panel gave no guidance on how countries should deal with the problem of circumvention of anti-dumping duties through establishment of "screwdriver assembly plants."

The date for the signing of Tunisia's protocol of accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has been set for 1 July, 1990, it was decided at the GATT council meeting yesterday.

Briefing newsmen in the afternoon and later again in the evening, a spokesman for GATT indicated that the international process for ratifying the protocol of accession to GATT by Tunisia was still to be completed.

The Soviet Union's bid for observer status in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was deferred until the council's next session in mid-May, according to a spokesman for the 96-nation trade forum.

Moscow's application was noted at a GATT council meeting yesterday, and consultations will continue until the next session, said the spokesman on condition of anonymity.

The United States told the GATT council that it had settled a dispute with Seoul on South Korean restrictions on imports of American beef.

Australia and New Zealand at once complained that they had so far been unable to reach similar arrangements with South Korea.

Korean delegates said Seoul would hold new talks later this month with those two countries.

Boeing investigates sabotage

The Boeing Co. is investigating an apparent case of industrial sabotage, after a jetliner failed tests because of wires that had been cut.

"It clearly seems to have been deliberate," T. Craig Martin, Boeing commercial airplane group spokesman, said late Monday in an interview. "The evidence at this point would suggest it would be an employee but we want to find out for sure." (AP)

Smallest video camera

JVC (Victor Co. of Japan) announced Wednesday it will market next month a new modular component video system featuring the world's smallest and lightest video cassette recorder and the world's smallest video camera.

The Tokyo-based company said the new system can take on any function or configuration to meet the user's needs and applications as each of components has specific functions, including recording, shooting, broadcast receiving, playback and power source.

The company said the system is compatible with the installed base of its VHS-format video cassette recorders. (UPI)

SAS profits fall

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) said on Tuesday that its profits before extraordinary items fell 40 per cent last year to 2.21 billion crowns (\$340 million).

It blamed the fall on investments of almost 10 billion crowns in 1989, which burdened it with heavy interest payments.

"The huge investments have of course brought greater capital costs, such as depreciation and interest. This was in line with our forecast," Jan Carlzon, SAS president and chief executive officer, said. He promised 1990 profits would rise. (Reuters)

Letter of intent signed

A West German firm signed a letter of intent for the purchase of subsidiaries of the giant Daimler-Benz group, specialized in marine technology, a company statement said Tuesday.

The Deutsche Aerospace subsidiary of Daimler-Benz said it had signed the agreement with the West German Bremen Vulkan AG firm and that a detailed contract would be negotiated by May. (UPI)

Record profits again

West Germany's big chemical companies posted record profits again in 1989 despite weaker fourth-quarter earnings, but share analysts believe profits will at best be flat this year.

BASF AG, Hoechst AG and Bayer AG are all likely to raise 1989 dividends by at least one mark (about 60 cents) to 13 marks (7.65 dollars).

BASF, the biggest, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, may even hand shareholders an additional one-mark bonus. (Reuters)

Pechiney announces profit

The French aluminum and packaging group Pechiney, taking advantage of high aluminum prices and strong demand, announced Tuesday 3.33 billion francs (\$579 million) in 1989 net consolidated profit, a 67 per cent increase over the previous year.

Pechiney, which acquired American Can Company of the United States for 21 billion francs (\$3.4 billion) in 1988, reported 88.47 billion francs (\$15.46 billion) in turnover last year, a 72 per cent increase from the 51.31 billion francs (\$8.97 billion) in turnover during the previous exercise. (UPI)

Fed approves trust venture

The Federal Reserve Board said Tuesday it approved the application of Wells Fargo and Co. to establish a joint venture with Nikko Securities Ltd. of Tokyo to engage in trust company activities.

Wells Fargo, headquartered in San Francisco, is the eighth largest banking organization in the United States and engages in a wide range of non-bank businesses. Nikko is a major Japanese investment house.

"The investment advisory activities and the trust company services that the joint ventures propose to conduct in this case are... permissible activities for both bank holding companies and banks," the Fed said. (UPI)

Reuters reporters protest

US-based journalists at the news agency Reuters are withholding their bylines from stories to protest management contract proposals.

The byline strike began Monday will last three days, said the newspaper Guild, which represents about 500 Reuters employees around the country, including 150 journalists. Their contract expired Feb. 28. (AP)

Mobil wins US navy contract

Mobil Oil Corporation has won a \$2.4 million contract to

Performance

Video games test efficiency

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4. (Reuters) Instead of random testing employees' urine to determine possible drug use, some companies in the United States are switching to video games to measure how well staff can do their work.

"We are seeing more and more new technology in this area, because people realise the shortcomings of urinalysis tests," said Edward Chen, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who specializes in drug-testing cases.

The new tests are computer devices which require workers to manipulate data on a video-display terminal so managers can assess their ability to, for example, drive a truck or operate heavy machinery.

Civil libertarians are attracted to the new devices because they objectively measure worker impairment rather than the level of a prohibited substance.

"As an application for fitness of duty you don't know whether they can't pass the test because their wife walked out on them or whether they are stoned out of their mind on drugs or alcohol, or they're just tired," said David Vinson, inventor of one such system.

The potential market for computer-related testing is unknown but it could be huge since employees who are unfit to perform their work cost US businesses tens of billions of dollars, annually, analysts said.

Performance Factors Inc. of California, introduced the Factor One test in January, and the product is now being used by bus, trucking and oil tanker companies.

The tests cost about one dollar a day per employee, Performance Factor president Mark Silverman said.

supplies to the navy and engineering services to the US navy's military sealift command.

This is the first time the navy's supply support group has awarded a world-wide contract to one supplier for commercial brand lubricants. Mobil will supply thirteen different products, estimated to be in excess of one million gallons in the first year, to 110 ports.

Japan's auto sales rise

Sales of passenger cars, trucks and buses in Japan rose by 17.4 per cent from a year earlier to a record 5.844 million in fiscal 1989, which ended March 31, the Japan Automobile Dealers' Association said Tuesday.

It was the first time that annual sales have surpassed 5 million, and the third year in a row that new sales records have been set. (AP)

Waterford to strike

Workers at Ireland's world-renowned Waterford Crystal factory have voted to strike from Thursday in protest over management cost-cutting plans.

A spokesman for the debt-ridden firm that has been hard hit by a slump in its crucial US and British markets said it was "shocked and disappointed at the unwarranted reaction of the workers." (Reuters)

Joint venture in Bangkok

Hankyu Department Store Inc. said Tuesday it will set up a joint venture in Bangkok with Thailand's largest department store, Central Department Store Ltd.

The new firm, Central Hankyu Ltd., will operate a food sales department on the basement of the Central World Trade Centre to be opened by the Thai partner in September 1990. (UPI)

Kyushu agrees price hike

Kyushu Electric Power Co. has agreed to a \$1.7 per ton increase in the price of fuel coal supplied by two Australian firms in fiscal 1990, which began April 1, the company reported.

The company said the new price was set at \$40.85 per ton.

Lebanese pound plunges

Amid political turmoil

BEIRUT, April 4. (Reuters) The Lebanese pound lost more than 1.7 per cent of its value in Beirut's foreign exchange market yesterday amid a political deadlock and fears of renewed violence.

The Central Bank said the pound closed at 585.00 to the US dollar, 10 pounds down from Monday's close of 575.00.

Banking sources linked the drop in the value of the ailing currency to the failure of mediators to end a two-month-old war for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

More than 900 people have

been killed and 2,800 wounded in fierce tank, artillery and rocket battles between troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen.

The sources said the destruction of industries, factories, institutions and banks in East Beirut and massive damage to the main power stations, water pumps and fuel tanks have exhausted the country's already battered economy.

Another reason for the pound's plunge was increasing demand for the US dollar in the market, they said.

Reforms face rebuff

MOSCOW, April 4. (Reuters) A senior Soviet official said yesterday that a government reform package to rescue the country's economy by creating a market system faced strong resistance and might even be rejected.

Andrei Orlov, senior aide to Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin, and one of the main architects of the plan, told the government newspaper Izvestia that a political decision on which path to follow would have to be taken soon.

"There is a very strong view that we should return to the positions of 1985, to tried and trusted methods and means," said Orlov, referring to the year Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and launched his reforms of the Soviet system.

"The command system of administration... the term used to describe the previous decades of rigid central planning and government control of the economy... has not yet been smashed and nostalgia for the past is strong," he told Izvestia.

"The package could be rejected and the team which is ready to fight for radical reform could be dispersed. I accept that society could reject a market solution and prefer strong administration measures," he said.

General Motors names Stempel to head new management team

DETROIT, April 4. (Reuters) General Motors, the world's largest automaker whose US market share has eroded over the past decade, named Robert Stempel yesterday to head a newly structured management team and succeed Roger Smith, who plans to retire.

Stempel, 56, currently GM president, will assume his new posts of chairman and chief executive on August 1. Smith, who previously said he would retire this summer, will leave office on July 31 shortly

after he turns 65.

Lloyd Reuss, 53, currently an executive vice president at GM, has been elected president to succeed Stempel, the company said. Reuss will have responsibility for all North American operations and world-wide automotive components.

The new management team also includes the appointments of two vice chairmen, John Smith Jr., 51 and Robert Schultz, 59, who will continue to oversee international operations and GM's no-

auto operations respectively.

The formation of the new team is in recognition of the growing importance of GM's profitable overseas operations and no-auto units like GM Hughes Electronics and Electronic Data Systems, while still focusing on core automaking operations, Smith said. The team will report directly to Stempel.

Stempel said the new structure of GM's top management is a reflection of his team approach. "I'm a team-oriented guy," he

told a news conference.

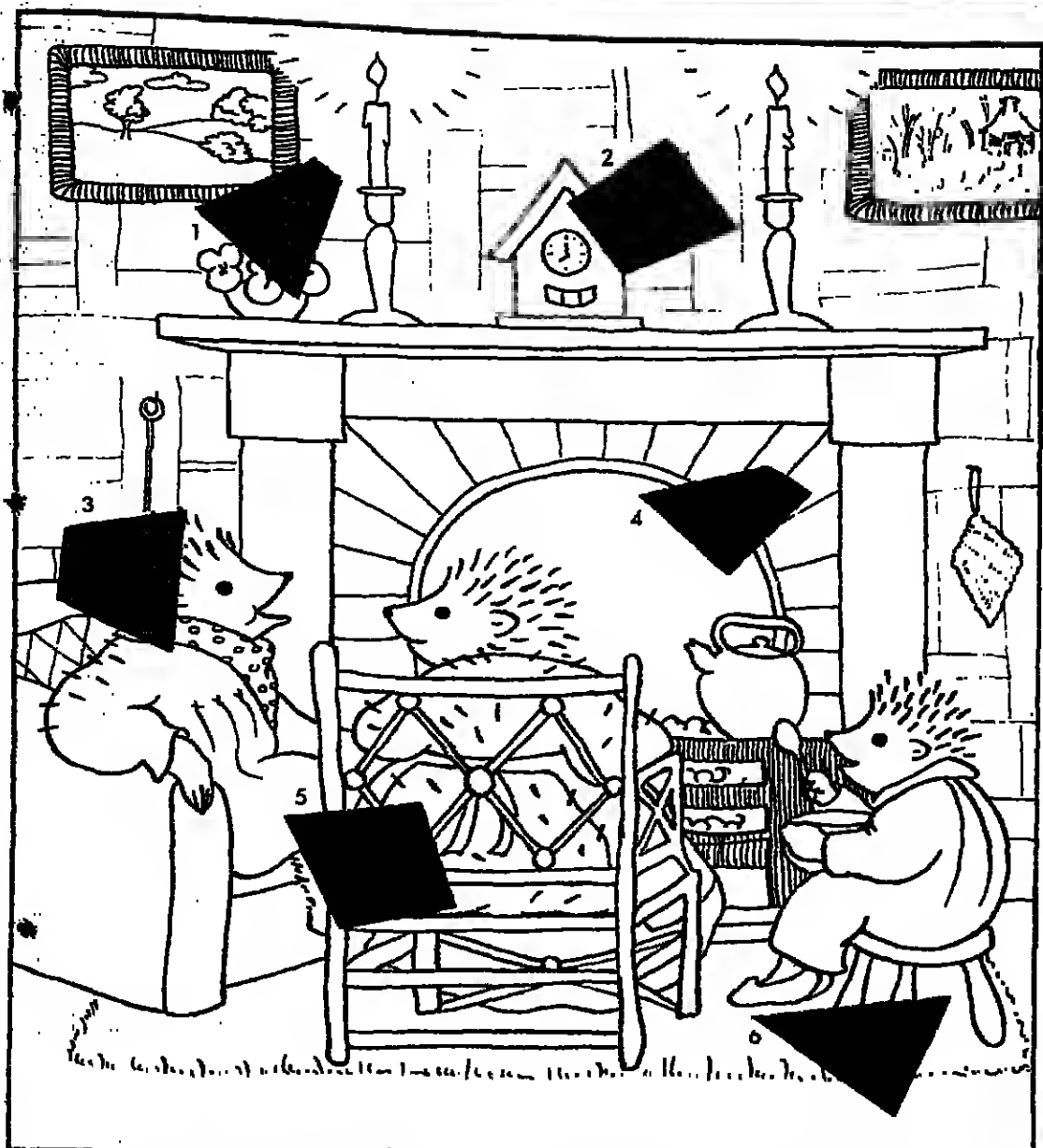
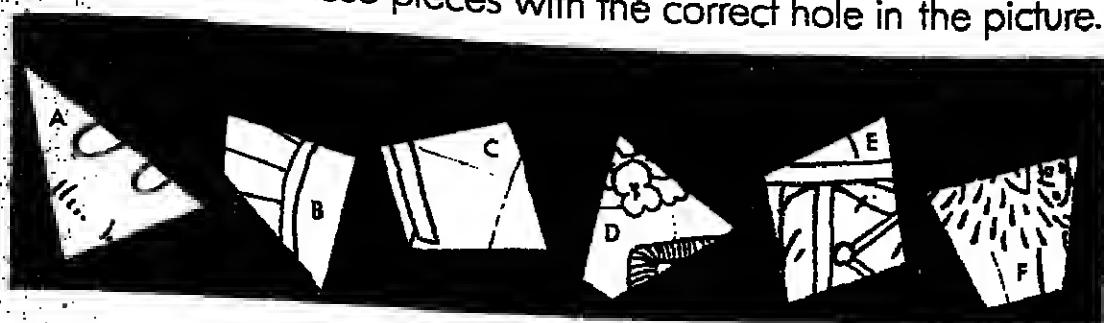
The naming of Stempel, an engineer by training, to take over the helm of GM is a break from the company's tradition. GM usually chooses chief executives from its financial staff.

He faces the daunting task of turning around the automaker's huge but troubled North American auto business. Barely profitable, it is suffering from a number of woes, including too many assembly plants, high costs, tough competition and lack-

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS				
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 03/4/90				
B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
14	Alkanim	Balship	2436920	
18	Queen Emerald	A. Marafie	4848665	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
ETA	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
3/04	Katya Zelenko	Al Rashed	2422026	
3/04	Ibn Bassam	Ksa	4843150	
3/04	Uni Superb	Sms	4745471	
4/04	Concord Bingo	Algh Barwil	4842988	
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
B. No	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
09	Orient River	Isa	2441860	
11	Helena Oldendorf	Isa	2441860	
12	Al Hana D	Sager Sbaheen	2432692	

Missing pieces

Match each of these pieces with the correct hole in the picture.



Amazing facts

A ram adds an additional spiral section to its horns every year.

The southernmost manned lighthouse in the world is Cape Pembroke Lighthouse in the Falkland Islands.

The official cause of death of George IV was listed as rupture of the stomach blood vessels, alcoholic cirrhosis, gout, nephritis and dropsy.

The bayonet is named after the French town Bayonne.

Milan cathedral took 579 years to build and seats a congregation of 40,000.

The official name for Libya is 'Spla', the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The archer fish can hit an insect up to 122 cm away with drops of water squirted from its mouth.

It takes 5 tons of rock to produce a piece of gold the size of a trouser button.

The nineteenth chapter of the Second Book of Kings and the thirty seventh chapter of Isaiah are almost identical.

Following one of his victories the fourteenth-century Turkish chief Tamerlane built 120 pyramids containing the heads of 80,000 of the defeated enemy.

Oliver Cromwell won two important battles on September 3 — those of Worcester and Dunbar. He also died on September 3, 1658.

When the Hong Kong Jockey Club racecourse collapsed and caught fire in February 1918, 604 people were killed.

Nadia Comaneci, a 14-year-old Romanian gymnast, received 7 perfect marks in the 1976 Olympics.

The second largest religion is Islam (Muslim) with about 550,000,000 followers called Muslims.

Happy birthday



Outbuddin H. Lokhandwala turns 7 on April 10.



Fatima Q. Gheewala turned 2 on March 31.



Denny George turns 4 today April 5



Diana Dias turns 9 today April 5



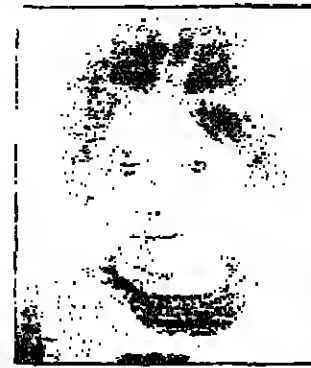
Kevin Manuel turned 5 on April 4



Kristel Dacosta turns 3 on April 8



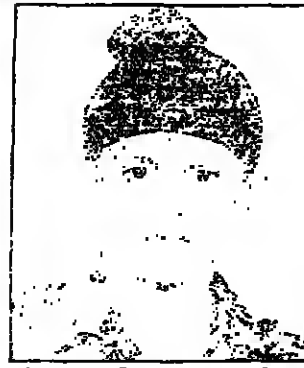
Aldrich Castelin turns 4 on April 8



Madiha Ehsanuihaq turns 4 on April 9



Satish Das turned 8 on March 28



Mandeel Chada turns 9 on March 6

Wordsearch

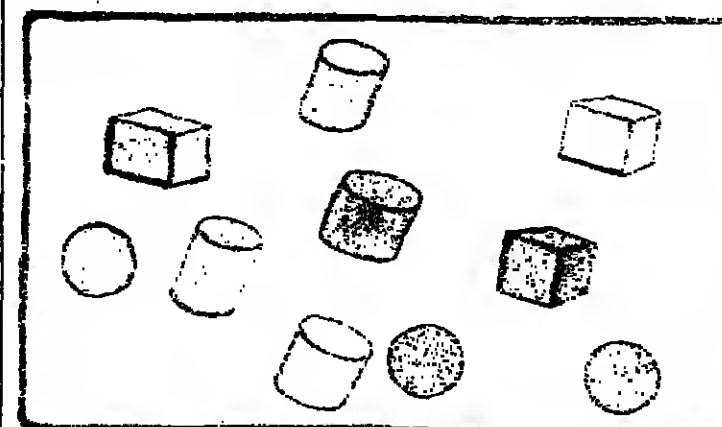
COMPUTER WHIZ

Computers are here to stay, and if you don't know anything about them, it could be a handicap. We've come up with a list of 34 computer-related words that should help you learn something about the way they work.

BASIC	FUNCTION	MUSIC	ROM
BOOK	GOTO	NUMBER	RUN
BYTE	JOYSTICK	PRINT	SHIFT
CARTRIDGES	KEYBOARD	PRINTER	SOUND
CASSETTE	LINGO	PROGRAMS	SYNTAX
CHIP	MEMORY	RAM	SYSTEM
DISC	MODEM	READOUT	TAPE RECORDER
ERROR	MODULATOR	READY	
EXPANDER	MONITOR	RETURN	

R O R R E D R O C E R E P A T
Z K I C I S U M J E D I S C J
Y M E M O R Y R A K C I S A B
F O V Y E P J D B R O M D R C
R F G B B N Y M O F X D U T K
E H M N R O O T O G T N I R P
T U L U I D A R K B V B C I F
N I T Q E L B R I J D Y I D E
I E S M U R E A D O U T D G T
R L C D N U O S I Y B E B E T
P R O G R A M S Y S T E M S E
N M O N I T O R H T I P O R S
E X P A N D E R S I N Z I O S
N O I T C N U F L C F M V H A
S Y N T A X P Q R K W T X Y C

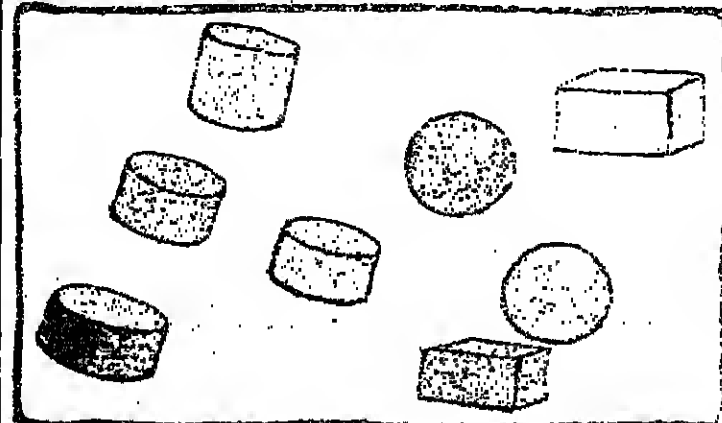
Sort them and count them



How many?

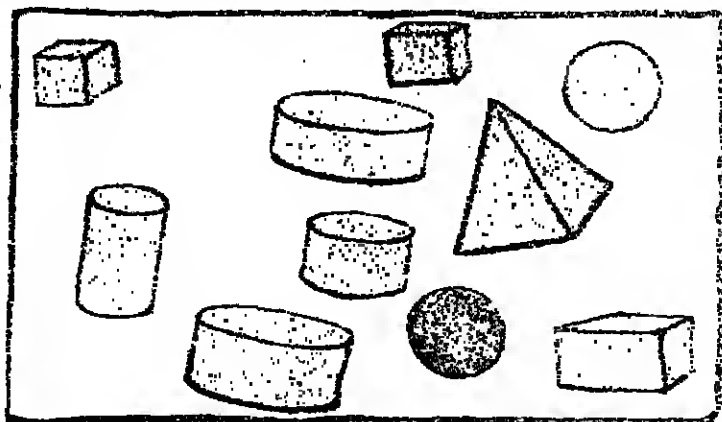
How many?

How many?



How many?

How many?

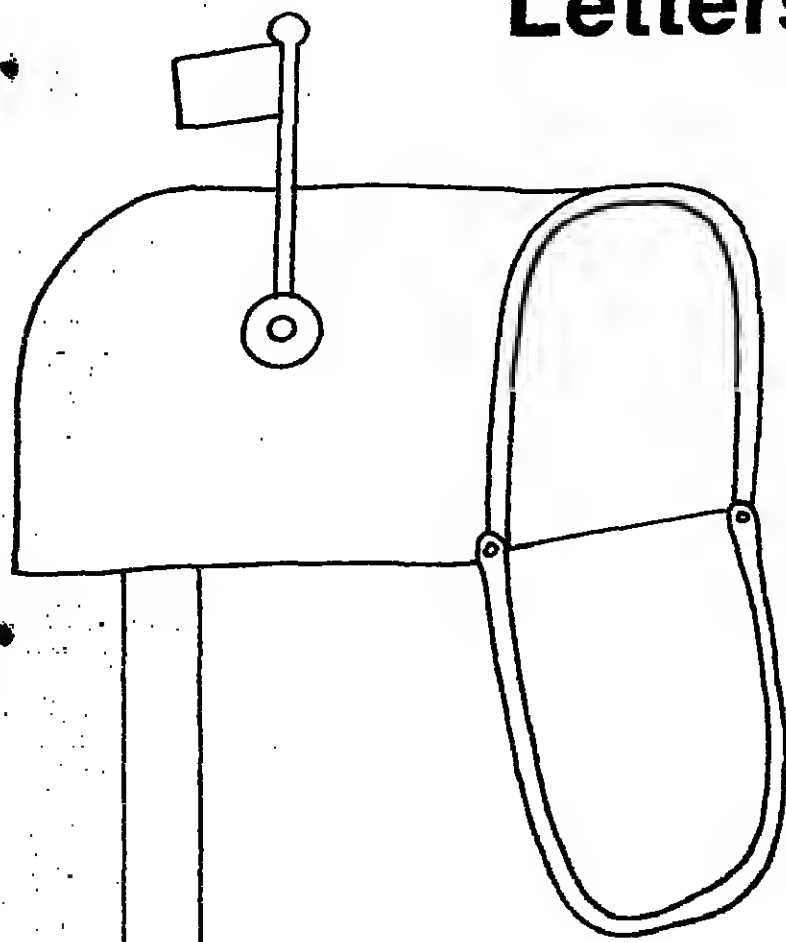


How many?

How many?

How many?

Letters And Stamps



Do the letter problems. Find the stamp with the correct answer. Cut out the stamp and paste it on the correct letter.

$$\begin{array}{r} 952 \\ - 100 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 636 \\ - 101 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 463 \\ - 321 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 867 \\ - 111 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

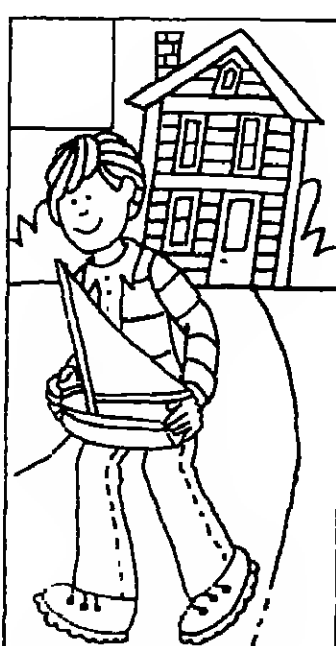
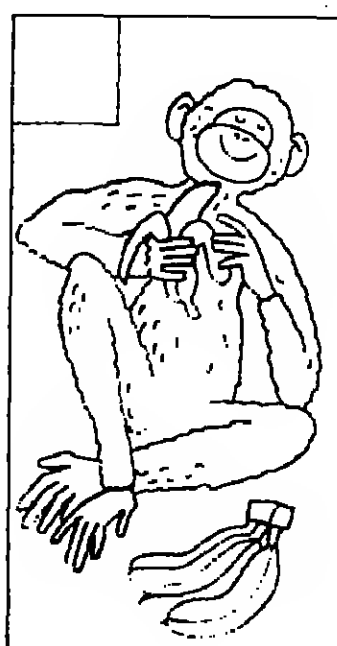
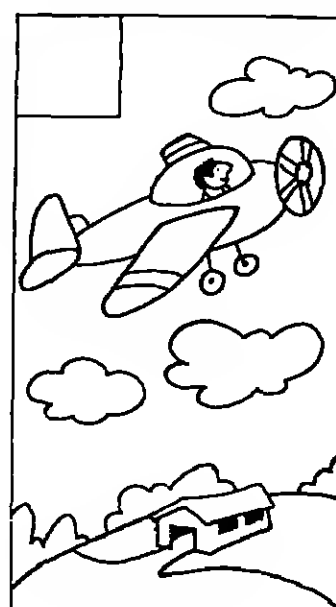
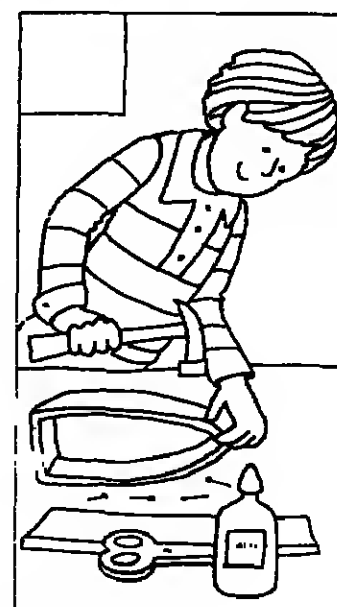
$$\begin{array}{r} 996 \\ - 321 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 863 \\ - 120 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

535 756 675 852 142 743

Story order

Look at the pictures. Four of them tell a story. Colour the pictures that tell the story. Write numbers in the boxes to put the story in order.



JUNIOR TIMES

Mind your manners

By Julie Hodgson

"WELL I say," said Mrs Chang as a group of boys pushed passed her. They just ran away without saying sorry. Mrs Chang thought that it was time that those young boys learnt a lesson, as she was tired of being pushed passed in the marketplace or shops, no one seemed to know the word "excuse me" or "sorry."

The very next day at the market she noticed the same group of boys who always hung around the marketplace, goodness knows what their parents thought as they should have been in

school at the time of the day.

Well when she saw them, she boldly walked up to the boys and pushed passed them, and then strode off with her nose in the air. Just as she suspected, the boys were very angry and they ran up to her.

"Hey, who do you think you are lady," one boy sneered.

"Just you listen to ME young man, you stroll around this town as if you own the place, pushing passed people without a care in the world. It's time YOU showed respect and minded your manners," she shouted.

You can imagine the shocked look

on the boys faces when she shouted at them, it embarrassed them because they were in the street and people had stopped to see what the commotion was.

Much to Mrs Chang's surprise they humbly apologised and told her they would watch out in future. The people that stood around them agreed with Mrs Chang and clapped when she walked away.

"Well that's a good job well done," she smiled to herself. With that she walked off and did the rest of her shopping secretly smiling to herself of what had happened.



Dear Junior Readers,

Whether you are fasting or not, you must try to drink at least six glasses of water a day.

Water cleanses your system washing away a lot of bacteria which would otherwise cause spots. It helps the kidneys perform adequately, allowing them to rid your body of the poisons which result from digestion and other bodily functions. Water also keeps your system from dehydrating in Kuwait's harsh weather.

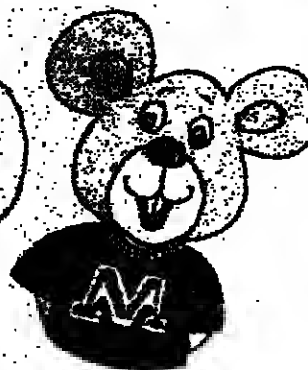
If you are not fasting then you can drink your water throughout the day. If you are fasting you will have drink all your water between breakfast and imsak. Further, if you eat softy foods or drink tea or coffee then a higher water intake is essential.

Manal

Colouring time

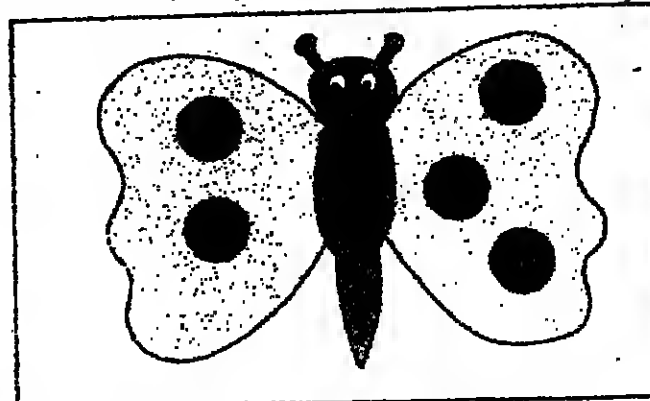


Butterfly dominoes



Use postcards or cut about 20 rectangular-shaped pieces of thin card.

Paint or crayon butterflies on each of the cards.

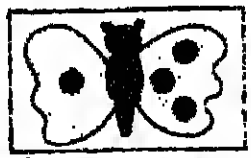


Colour large dots from one to six on each of the wings.

Share out the cards with a friend and take it in turns to lay down a card.

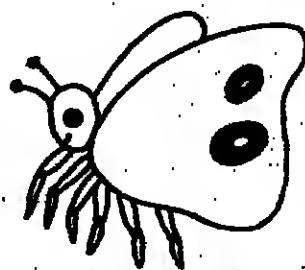
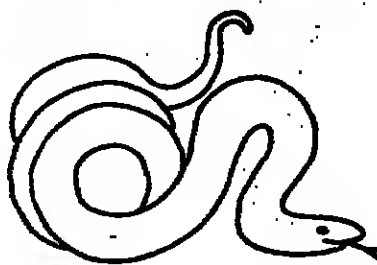
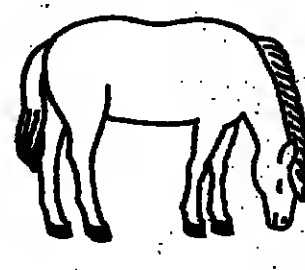
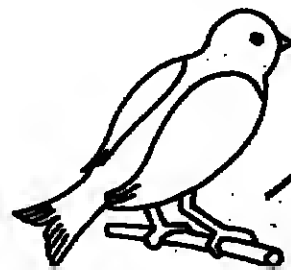
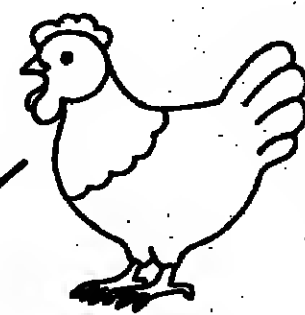
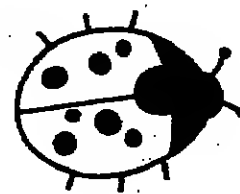
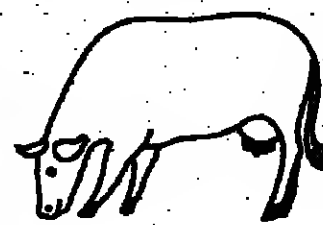
Remember, only a wing with the same number of dots can go next to another similar wing.

The winner is the person to use up all his or her cards first.



How many legs?

Draw a line to connect the animals with the same number of legs.



Alan had just asked his father for an increase in his pocket money.

"What do you want more money for?" demanded his

Just for laughs!

father.

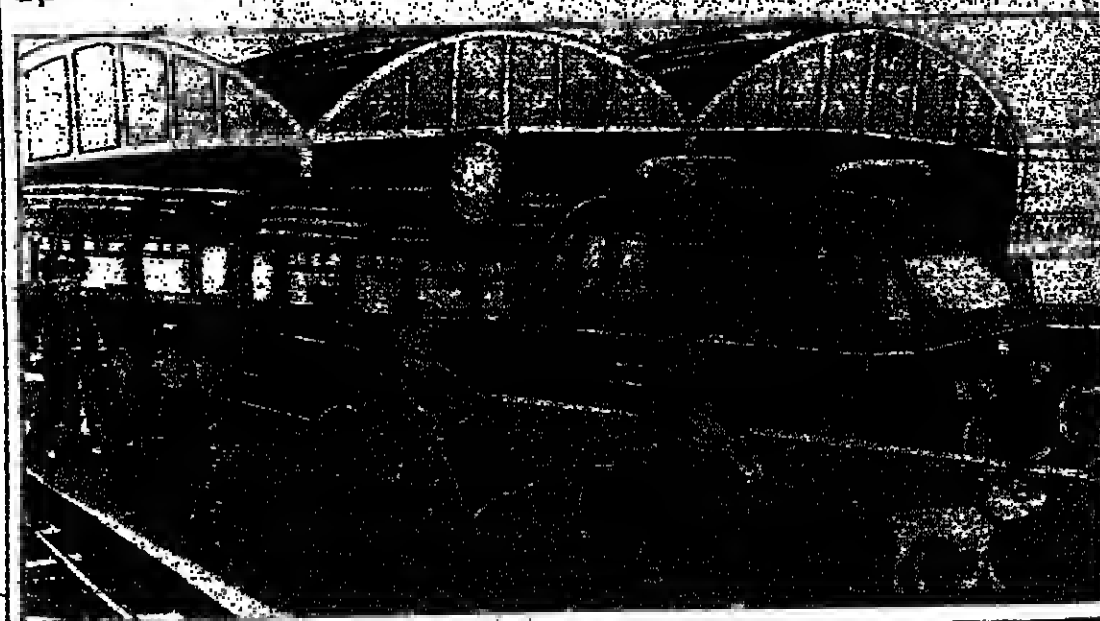
"Well, I'm thirteen now, Dad," explained the lad,

'and I'm thinking of going out with girls.'

'Girls? What kind of girls?'

'Girls with money.'

Spot the six mistakes in the picture below.



The Goops again



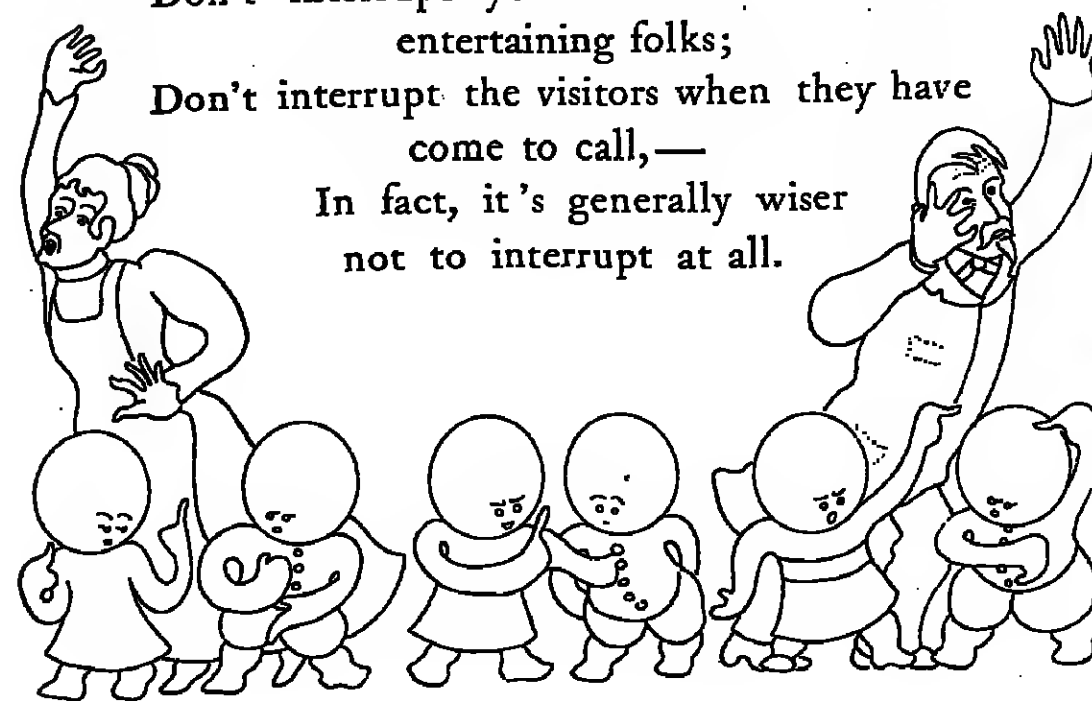
INTERRUPTION

Don't interrupt your father when he's telling funny jokes;

Don't interrupt your mother when she's entertaining folks;

Don't interrupt the visitors when they have come to call,—

In fact, it's generally wiser not to interrupt at all.



Rock Icicles

Water with weak acid in it can eat away the minerals in some kinds of rock to make caves. When water keeps seeping through the ceiling of such a cave, it leaves dissolved minerals behind on the cave ceiling that look like icicles (stalactites). Some dissolved minerals drip to the floor and make what look like upside-down icicles (stalagmites).

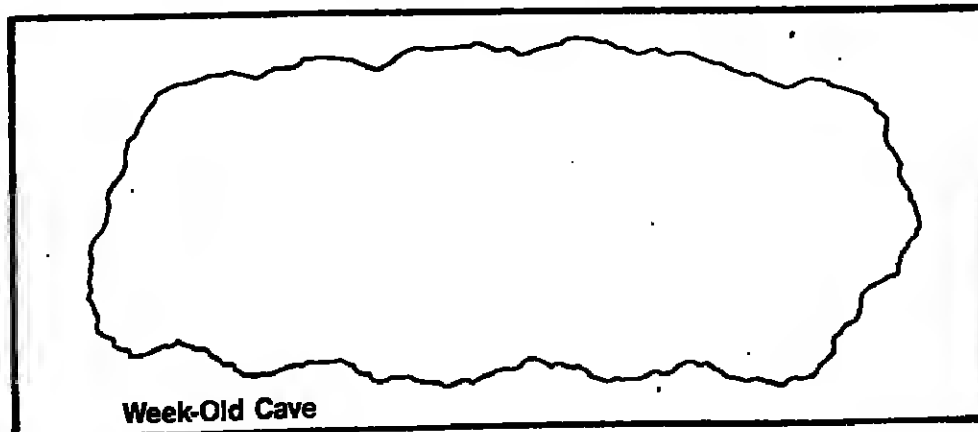
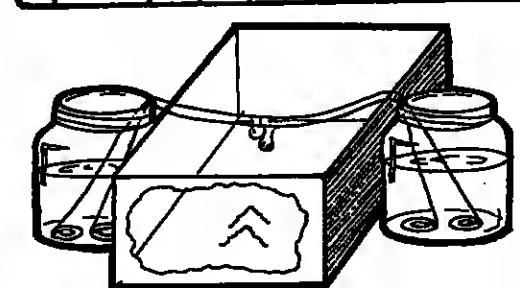
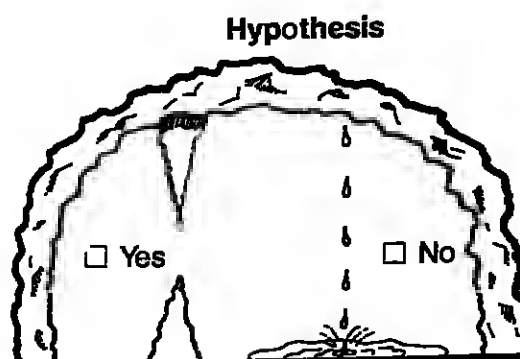


Can stalactites and stalagmites be made using Epsom salts and water? Check your answer.

Materials Needed: Epsom salts, water, shoebox, string, washers or nails, 2 jars

Procedure:

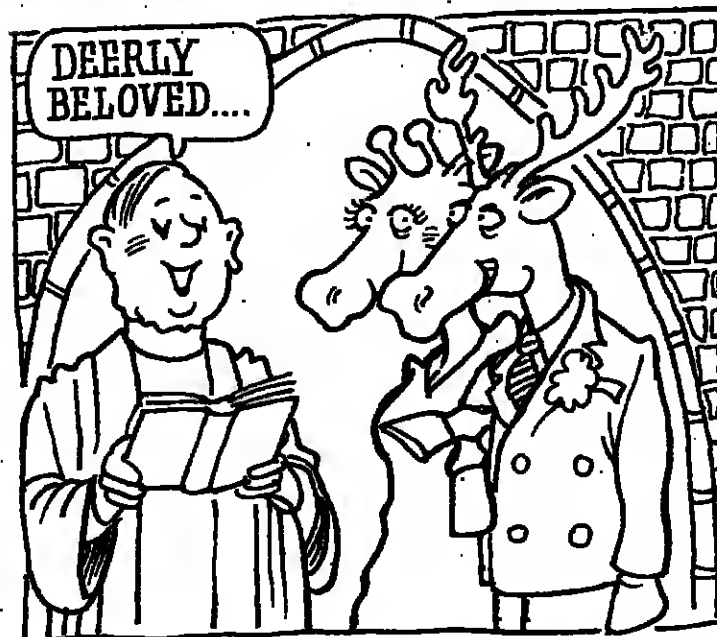
1. Cut a cave hole opening in the front of a shoebox.
2. Mix Epsom salts and water in two jars.
3. Follow your teacher's directions for string.
4. Watch dripping and formation for one week.
5. Draw a picture of your week-old cave.



Week-Old Cave

Results and Conclusions

1. Could you make stalactites and stalagmites?
2. Is that what you thought you could do?
3. What did you learn?



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES

Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

Indian Film

Fresh ideas, faces invaded cinema in 'trendy' 80s

High risk '90s launch 'Oye Oye' generation



Amitabh Bachchan in Ganga Jumuna Saraswati. In the 80s, the cult of violence led.



Sujata Mehta in Pratigahat; this N. Chandra movie furthered the wave of violence.

'Kiss and tell' tales

Deception, by Philip Roth (Simon and Schuster, 208 pp., \$18.95)

Near the end of Philip Roth's 13th novel, the unnamed female protagonist suggests she write her own version of the novel we've just read. She wants to call it "kiss and tell."

That title could serve nearly as well as the one Roth has chosen. Deception, for this work by one of America's most consistently intriguing novelists is about kissing and telling — with the emphasis on the telling.

Being a Roth novel it is also about much more. Roth has always been interested in playing with literary forms and Deception is no different. The book is literally all talk, stripped of all authorial comment, all description except that given in conversation, all unstated observation.

At the heart of the telling are a pair of lovers: an American-Jewish author named Philip and a well-to-do Londoner who visits the writer in his studio flat. And they talk — wittily, intelligently, voraciously and endlessly — before making love, after making love, sometimes instead of making love.

They touch on their domestic discomforts, on sex, on anti-Semitism, on writing. And there are other conversations as well, including, finally, a confrontation with Philip's wife. She has discovered the notebook that is the novel in which all these conversations — including, of course, the conversation with the wife discovering the notebook — are recorded.

What's going on here? It's Roth up to his old tricks, exploring the ambiguity between fact and fiction, the uncertainty and complexity of identity, the question of how the imagination intersects with reality. It is a theme he can't seem to let go of but that he consistently carries off with verve, invention and confidence — even if at times it becomes a bit tiresome.

Roth's books show his unerring ear for dialogue. Deception is no exception and it's fast paced and fun to boot.

The Renegades of Pern, by Anne McCaffrey (Del Rey, 384 pp., \$19.95)

Anne McCaffrey's new book, *The Renegades of Pern*, is every bit as good as her others.

Someone who has not yet discovered McCaffrey had best pay careful attention to the introduction, the rest of us can plunge right in, since flying dragons and voracious organisms called thread are not something you are likely to forget.

The renegades are led by a woman who feels, probably correctly, that she was cheated of inheriting a vast estate because of her sex. Lady Thella was firstborn, but the wealth and noble title went to her half-brother. Faced with an arranged marriage, Thella takes to the hills to carve out her own domain. But she is no feminist role model. Thella thinks nothing of slitting someone's throat to gain a slight advantage.

Her exploits take place amid a recurrence of thread, which has not been seen in so long that most people were convinced it never would come again. The residents of Pern are descendants of the spacefarers, who spent so much time carving out a living in a sometimes hostile environment that they lost the science allowing travel among the stars. The last science allowing travel among the stars, but its members current generation is still fighting, but its members are willing to research their past when clues present themselves.

We can only hope that humanity's real future is as good as the fictional one full of high adventure and fun that McCaffrey has created.

A Present of Things Past, by Theodore Draper (Hill and Wang, 305 pp., \$25)

Theodore Draper is one of the best essayists on modern history currently writing and his new collection of 10 essays confirms and extends that judgement.

In these pieces, drawn primarily from the New York review of books, the New Republic and Dissent magazine, Draper demonstrates both a breadth of vision and a meticulous handling of the sources of the historical record.

Thus some of the most interesting and charged pieces here are passionately felt, but carefully and reasonably argued, critiques of the abuse and misuse of the historian's task and the journalist's craft. He can be devastating and instructive at the same time.

Draper takes on the fad of "novelistic journalism" as represented by such books as Strobe Talbot's *Deadly Gambits*, which purports to give the inside story of Ronald Reagan's nuclear arms control policy but which relies on a novelistic retelling of episodes based on anonymous sources. Draper raises disturbing questions about the phenomenon that Talbot's response (also printed in the book) fails to rebut.

There are also two essays on American communism, Draper's, in which he challenges the revisionist, new left-influenced effort to make American followers of Moscow's line into folk heroes, a blistering analysis of the seemingly deliberate distortions in neo-conservative histories of the Yalta agreements and the post-war settlement of Europe, and two penetrating looks at the Iran-Contra affair.

It is a provocative and bracing look at the world as it has recently unfolded.

Tyeoon, by Terry Pringle (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 281 pp., \$18.95)

Bill Brewster is the local oil driller's son, seemingly blessed by the fates with a life of ease and a lovely girlfriend.

His life was just fine, in fact, until the day Stan Gaines came back to Abilene, Texas. Gaines wasn't particularly popular in high school, there were rumours about what his mother did besides being a maid, and even now, Gaines doesn't seem to have any poise. But he does have plenty of ambition.

And Gaines bustles and Bill does not. In fact, throughout much of this often funny novel, Bill sits pretty much on the sidelines waiting for Stan to fall flat on his face — and watching as he succeeds beyond all odds, even marrying Bill's girl.

Fortunately Bill — and author Terry Pringle — has a good sense of humour and a knack for describing events and not a few odd characters as he's carried along in Gaines' wake. Will Bill forever be content to react instead of act? Readers will spend an enjoyable few hours finding out.

This I Promise You, by Tracy Stern (Simon and Schuster, 343 pp., \$19.95)

As addicting as a box of rich chocolates, *This I Promise You* is one of those books you can't put down.

It is a story of heroism, heartbreak and determination as Kati fights to keep her family's legacy of managing a world class hotel — only to have it sold out from under by her mother.

But Kati is a heroine with grit, and from Paris to Baden-Baden, West Germany, she works to win it back.

This I Promise You is sweet but not sappy rags-to-riches story.

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

APRIL stands for the season of spring and an occasion to celebrate. It is also a joyous moment for this columnist who has completed ten years with Arab Times, having started in April 1980.

A great deal happened in the last decade, erratic, exciting 80's. We would prefer to call them the trendy ten years, when several new people invaded the media scene, many old traditions changed and new trends were set on stream. The electronic media became a tough threat to the seventy year old cinema while also feeding freely on its material. There were constant danger signals flashed about the collapse of cinema.

Of course there was a lot of frivolity in the output of the 80's and the quality was never so bad before. It was a heritage coming from the shallow 70's when this erosion had started. And it may reach its climax in the 90's when the century ends.

At the start of the last decade, the craze for violence was not so strong. Triangular romances like *Dustana* and *Aasha*, family dramas like *Judai*, dance-musicals like *Kur* were high hits. Films like *Ek Baar Phir* (Deepiti Akrash) or *Khushnawaz* (Rekha) could have a decent release and run.

On the contrary, the big once took a beating like Amitabh and Shashi's *Do Aur Do Paunch*, also *Sholay* Sippy's *Shaan* and B.R. Chopra's ambitious *Burning Train*. B.R. also introduced an ugly note with *Insaaf Ka Tarazu*, a copy of *Lipstick*, bringing sexy scenes and a new anti-hero called Raj Babbar. Its enormous success was the first blow struck in favour of evil and against good. No wonder, the whole decade saw a rise in blatant cases of rape in the country.

After a year, *Umrao Jaan* won awards; and its profits proved that all was still not lost, the cycle of young love stories (spectacularly completed in 1990 by *Maine Pyar Kiya* was started a decade ago with *Love Story*, *Ek Duje Ke Liye*, *Rukhi*, *Betaab*, and *Prem Geet* (with Babbar becoming the good hero). The older heroes accepted their fade-out at last and started productions to launch the sons... Kumar Gaurav, Sunjay Dutt, Sunny Deol, Kunal Goswami, Rajeev Kapoor, Sunil Anand, with new heroines like Amrita Singh, Tina Munim and Vijayeta. And there was the southern pair Kamalhasan and Rati Agnihotri. Some eluded, some crawled and some are still trying. If Amitabh had mega hits like *Lawaris* and *Naseeb* then better films like *Albert Pinto* or *Shuradhanjali* could also be winners. In fact, it was the peak period of art cinema conquering box-office. Manoj Kumar in his own style got a patriotic hit in *Krant*.

The following year saw the disco mania emerging, with Mithun as a dancing hero of sorts in *Disco Dancer* and with Bhappi Lahiri as a rhythm king. There were a variety of hits like the Muslim social *Nikaah* with old-worldish songs, the romantic comedy-cum-melodrama *Kamchor*, R.K.'s progressive masala film *Prem Rog*, the Amitabh — Shashi tandem *Namak Halal*, Subhash Ghai's big canvas *Vidhata* and art film *36 Chauringhee Lane*. Of course, there were grand debacles too.

Amitabh had his bad spell even then, with turnips like *Mahaan*, *Bemisaal*, *Pukar*, *Yaarana*. But he could recover with *Coolie* and the big media hype of his accident and danger spell in hospital, with the prime minister paying a visit. Meanwhile new stars emerged like Jackie Shroff and Meenakshi in *Hero*, Anil Kapoor in *Woh Saath Din* and the biggest of all, glamour girl Sriti Devi in *Himmatwala*. This new crop soared high, as *Attenborough* made *Gandhi*, Govind Nihalani scored *Arth Satya* as the most successful art film, Rajesh Khanna displayed the final flickers with *Avtaar*, Shekhar Kapoor made medium — budget *Masoom* a popular success and Kamal Amrohi's *Razia Sultan* became the decade's disaster. But it was Jeetendra who became the most bankable star.

Another copy by B.R. Chopra, of *Death Wish* in the form of *Aaj Ki Awaaz*, hit the jackpot and set long-term trends for injustice (rape and murder) opposed by vendetta with weapons, gory violence and disregard for law and police. In contrast, the first 3-D films *Chhota Chetan* and extremely innocent fantasy was also a big hit. The political film of protest and revenge also took roots with *Aaj Ka M.L.A.*, *Inqilab* etc. though only in formula garb. Better films like *Sparsh*, *Jaane Bhi Da Yaaran*, *Mahaan Jash* and *Suraash* could still have their day.

The mid-80's saw a drastic change in trends and a swing towards sure success: violence. This despite the fact that a weepy romance like *Pyar Jhukta Nahin* was a record-breaker. Dimple made a surprise comeback with *Saagar* but had to wait to reach the top bracket. Films which left their impress on cinegoers and on copy-cat producers were violent ones like N. Chandra's *Ankush* followed by *Pratigahat*. It was the same formula in a different pseudo-real garb, like Rahul Rawail's *Arjun*, J.P. Dutta's *Ghulam*, B. Subhash's *Aandhi Toofan*, Subhash Ghai's *Meri Jung* and titles like *Maa Kasam*, *Durga*, *Insaaf Main Karungate*. In the process small meaningful ones like *Kamla*, *Paar*, *Utsav* were all but wiped out, except *Tawaif*.

But the decade resounded with the jingle of money and sizzled with the deductive charm of new heroine. Mandakini, when Raj Kapoor's last film *Rani Teri Ganga Maali* hit the screen. Once again, romance, songs, wide screen and daring exposure had opened a gold-mine but the industry rightly said that only R.K. could carry it off. Others who tried fell flat indeed. After this came the last four (and worst) years of the decade. There were hardly any films to crow about and the hit or flop situation became as speculative as the stock market.

Some sincere attempts getting lukewarm response were *Ek Chaadar Maali Si*, the dream of some talented people of the 60's like Geeta Bali. *New Delhi Times*, *Naache Mayuri*, *Naam* were other such ventures. Mahesh Bhatt showed the path to video-TV by making *Janam* for an ad agency. Many big producers, driven to the brink by debts, took to TV serials and minted money again, now at the cost of television quality. The industry has to turn to snakes and "tantrics" for a change and this yielded a big money — spinner *Nagina*. Subhash Ghai could not make a block-buster out of *Karma*, Dada Kondke's vulgar comedies remained a safe bet. A new dancing star in Mithun's footsteps was Govinda, who arrived with *Ilzaam* and typified the instant non-actor of the new generation.

Feroz Khan's five year project *Jaanebuz* was well made but got average results. The late K. Asif's jinxed dream *Love and God* was released after ten years but in such a battered form that it was rejected within ten days. Women's cinema got a push with Aparna Sen's *Paroma*, Sai Paranjape's *Kaha* and Kalpana Lajmi's *Ek Pal*, all about women's sexuality. *Pushpak* was a rare experiment of silent film, *Mirch Masala* came as an art film with formulas behind the curtain.

Fun and fantasy brought big money again in *Mr. India* with Sri Devi's stock hitting the sky. Drama of tangled relations paid off in *Khudgarz*. But producers only listened to the bell tolled by action and mayhem. After all how many people can make the dramatic, fantasy or fun films? Action stuff is so easy, as it can be left to fight masters. To fortify their belief, films like *Ag Hi Ag*, *Hukumat*, *Jawaab Denge*, *Loha*, *Insaaf Ki Pukar* clicked in a big way, marking a comeback of he-man Dharmaendra and emergence of more non-actors like Aaditya and Chunky. Vinod Khanna returned to films after seven years and got a lift from *Insaaf*, which catapulted Dimple too to the status of a sought-after top-notch, along with *Insaniyat Ke Dushman* and *Kaash* Amitabh went to Parliament, resigned and returned to the industry in the same decade.

At the tail-end, the tall No. 1, began to stumble with *Shahenshah* and other flops down till 1990. The hits included the violent *Kalchakra* and the romantic, Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, topped by *Teesaab*, *Ram Lakhan*, *Solam Bombay*, *Chandni* and *Tridev*, with Khoon Bhari *Maang* as a better though copied attempt.

Super flops were caused by *Dayavan*, *Vijay*, *Batwara*, *Kasam*, *Toofan*, *Jodigar*, *Ram Avtar*, *Clerk*, *Sanshodh*, *Sachche ko Bolbala*. Once big names like Dev Anand, Manoj, Feroz Khan, Rajesh Khanna, Manmohan Desai, Prakash Mehra, began to fall. Many old banners closed down, but the trade people treated cinema like a casino... every new film was a gamble and every new entrant was a player. The stakes were on the stars and the end of the decade brought fresh faces like Farha, Madhuri Dixit, Aamir Khan, Juhi Chawla, Sangeeta, Sonam, Kimi, Neelam, and Salman Khan.

And the same may continue to make up the nonsensical 90's for the *Oye Oye* generation, with producers backing the winning horse (or mare), that too of the particular period, however, short it may be.



Meenakshi Seshadri and Jackie Shroff; discovered in the 1980s.



Shatrughan Sinha and Mumtaz: two of a kind.



Saeed Mirza's Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyon Aata Hai... made Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi famous



Aamir Khan and Dimple Kapadia, showing off

Behind the screen

● Elections play strange tricks. Jackie Shroff was accused of campaigning for a hefty fee. He had to issue a certificate saying he belongs to no party, though he has friends in every party.

● Two Bombay theatres were raided for films like *Meri Pyar Bujhkar*. Among those arrested were distributors, theatre managers and even operators. But what did the poor projectionists do? They are employees who put on the machine. Surely they can't add obscene spots in a film.

● Though Mumtaz has come down to work in Bombay films for money, she never loses a chance of boasting about her immense wealth. She keeps talking of the Madhavanis millions. She says she is doing films only to kill boredom. Then why ask for fantastic fees? And how many roles like *Aandhiyan* does she expect to get?

Star slips

Amir Khan: "It's a gamble with the tough Don's role in *Aankh Hi Aankh*. If it flops, I will give up such roles and stick to my age...the college boy type".

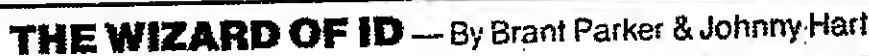
Aparna Sen: "I am acting to bring up my two daughters, you know I am a single parent".

Rajesh Puri: Frankly speaking, working in present-day films is not to my liking. But I can't do anything about it. After all, it's a question of bread and butter.

Dimple: "I have 35 films and 17 are on the floors, ceiling or no ceiling".

Shatrughan Sinha: "I deliberately ragged Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh to make them stronger and wiser".

BLONDIE—By Dean Young & Stan Drake



- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | 65 Where the UN | 26 Remove |
| 1 Alphabet run | meets | 27 Added clause |
| 5 "— Street | 66 Desert green | 28 Port of W India |
| Blues" | spot | 29 Gum resin |
| 10 Complain | 67 "States" of the | 30 Some NFL |
| 14 Flake, fluff or | Sov. Union | players |
| fishing net | | 32 Once more, in |
| 15 Flight site | DOWN | music |
| 16 In a quandary | 1 Words on dials | 34 Ona in the |
| 17 Derring-do | 2 Appeal | lips |
| 18 Artful dodger, | 3 Locked, | 35 Of |
| of a sort | 4 Book, as a | grandparents |
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| or knot | Guinness | the Rhein |
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| 40 Do — (again) | 21 Not worth a | 56 Gee-tars' kin |
| 41 Actress | red — | 57 Truth stretch |
| 42 Thompson | 25 "Welcome —": | 58 Miscalculates |
| Bert and | Altman film | 60 Hesitant sou |
| Emmie's street | | |
| 44 Plug | | |
| 45 Tenor Richard | | |
| — Bennett | | |
| 47 Jafferson's coin | | |
| 49 — pie (from | | |
| head to foot) | | |
| 51 Heavy barge | | |
| 52 O'Neill and Field | | |
| 55 Fickle | | |
| 59 Open mandate | | |
| 61 Den | | |
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| coming" | | |
| 63 Villachaise | | |
| of TV | | |
| 64 Seaweed | | |
| product | | |

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♣KJ8 ♥10863 ♦A5 ♠Q1074
 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AKQ64 ♥A10832 ♦Void ♣AK9
 What is your opening bid?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AQ106 ♥KJ62 ♦J7 ♣J83
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♥ Dbl ?
 What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♣K104 ♥A93 ♦QJ92 ♠AK10

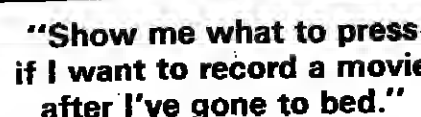
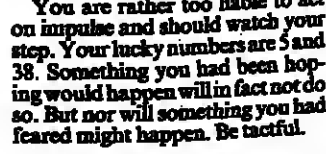
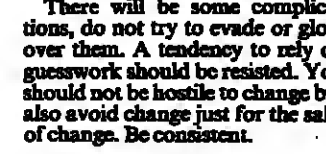
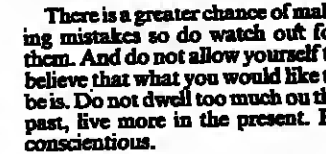
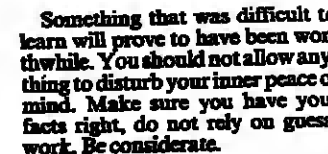
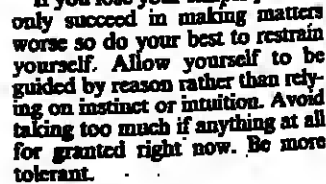
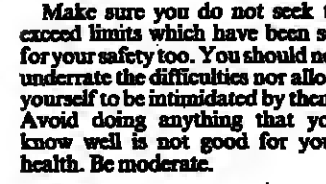
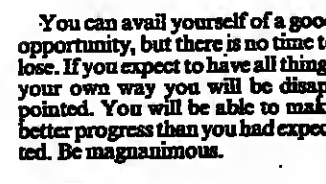
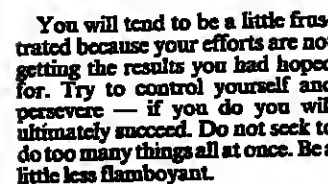
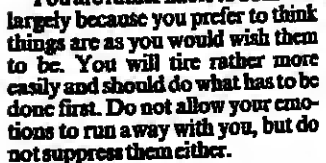
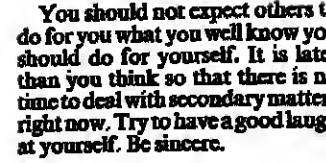
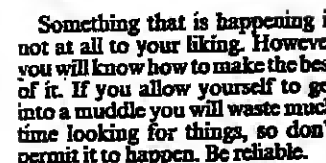
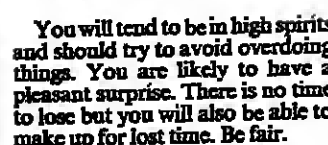
The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
 4 ♣ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠1098 ♥KQ4 ♥K7 ♠AJ
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 Pass Pass 3 ♥ ?
 What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠1098 ♥KQ4 ♦K7 ♠AJ
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 Pass Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 Pass Dbl Pass ?
 What action do you take?



YOUR STARS



Video Corner



Chevy Chase.

A wish comes true — with some disastrous results

By Sham Seekins

CHEVY Chase returns as Clark Griswold in the most recent of the National Lampoon series, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. He plays a well meaning but hopelessly clumsy "pater familias" of the typically suburban Griswold family. This year he decides to stay at home for the Christmas holidays, thereby removing the link that is supposed to hold the series together. He is determined to have a full-blown, old-fashioned Christmas and throws himself into the spirit of the season with catastrophic results.

What follows is simply every conceivable Christmas nightmare taken to extremes. The lights cause nothing but problems, the bonus he is expecting from his firm doesn't materialise, and his awful family descend on him to shatter any hope of a tranquil celebration.

Cousin Eddy, played by Randy Quaid, is a real backwoods type, and when Chase takes pity on his impoverished situation to invite him and his family for Christmas, decides to repay Clark's hospitality by making his Christmas wish come true with disastrous results.

The last minute parallel with Scrooge and a message of family togetherness are not as effective as scenes such as when the cat gets accidentally blown up, icicles flying through neighbour's windows and Clark's attempts to read a magazine when his hands are covered in tree sap.

As with all slapstick, Clark's violence against himself and others is seldom out of anger and the viewers knows that nobody is really going to get hurt (except the cat). A silly movie, but one in which the laughs never stop.

A Time of Death... is an old-fashioned melodrama about an American immigrant family racked by feuds and rivalry. When Josie (Melissa Leo) elopes with the eminently suitable Jack (Timothy Hutton) the vengeful father set off in hot pursuit. Though not thick enough to prevent their union, he does persuade Josie to come back home with him. On the way however, their car goes into a lake and the father is accidentally drowned. His death causes the return home of the unstable son Martin (William Hurt), who vows to avenge the tragedy. Martin insinuates himself into the same fighting unit as Jack and together they go to the Italian front, he fails in his attempt to shoot Jack, but they both return home knowing that the final confrontation is yet to come.

Two new horror releases this week, *Amityville* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* continue their successful runs. *Time Trackers* is a Sci Fi thriller set in the year 2033, when the brilliant scientist Dr Craig has time machine stolen, his daughter and two friends set off on a trip through time to try to recover it. *Breaking Point* is a taut thriller about the torture an American officer suffers at the hands of the Gestapo during WW2, as they try to make him reveal the secrets of the D-Day landings.

Vietnam Texas stars Robert Ginty as an ex-soldier turned priest who tries to find the daughter he fathered in Vietnam. Set amongst the oriental gangs in Houston, Texas, *Animal Behaviour* stars Karen Allen and Armand Assante, set in a south-western American university, Allen plays a researcher who is trying to teach a chimp to talk and Assante the music teacher who falls for her.

The above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Sahmyia, Tel 5724372. Sahmyia Shopping Centre, Kuwait City. Fintas Towers, Safeway Shopping Centre, Farwaniya.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Diuretics can result in potassium loss

QUESTION: We're senior citizens and would like to know just what a certain blood test is for. Some of our doctors have tests taken every six months when we're in for blood pressure checks. It is usually for "potassium," but we have no symptoms of a lack of potassium and are not treated for anything else, so why?

ANSWER: A regular blood test for potassium at six-month intervals would make no sense to me either, if you hadn't mentioned that it occurred while you were having your blood pressure checked. Did you forget to tell me that some of you were being treated for high blood pressure?

One classification of medications commonly used to reduce elevated blood pressure is the "thiazide" group, also known as "diuretics" or "water pills." They work to reduce the pressure by reducing the volume of blood through increased urinary excretion, but they also provoke a loss of sodium, potassium and chlorides as well. They are well tolerated as medications, have few side effects and are frequently chosen as the first medication in the treatment of hypertension. Since they extract potassium from the body, regular blood tests can be used to check the levels.

Potassium is a most important chemical for the body to have in just the right amounts since it can effect the way electrical currents are carried through the heart, and thus the way the heart beats. In most cases, there is no need to replace potassium in people who are on diuretics, but when the levels are low, liquids containing extra potassium can be provided. Bananas are also an excellent source of potassium, as are prunes, raisins and whole or skimmed milk. If you are on water pills, and receive no additional medications after the blood tests, it's because you are maintaining the right levels of potassium, and so have no need for more medication, and certainly nothing to worry about.

QUESTION: Although I have never been much good at keeping to a training programme, my new living arrangements permit me access to a swimming pool. Although most people just splash around, I'm interested in knowing just how good swimming is as an exercise to lose weight.

ANSWER: The only way to lose the weight is to expend more calories than you take in. Swimming is an excellent way to burn calories, and, combined with a moderate reduction in calories consumed, can help you take off weight. Since it's a rhythmic, aerobic exercise, swimming is also beneficial for the heart. It has an added advantage of being good for the back and joints since water bears most of your weight, eliminating excess burdens on the spine, hips, knees and ankles. To take off a pound of fat, you have to burn 3,500 calories. According to the official YMCA Fitness Programme, the breast stroke burns 7 to 11 calories per minute, the backstroke burns 8 to 11.5 calories per minute, and the crawl 9 to 14 calories per minute, depending on how much you weigh and how fast you swim. A good regimen would be to swim three times a week for 40 minutes. For the purposes of weight reduction, this can be accomplished in divided doses. You could burn off a pound every three weeks without dieting! If you diet too, you could lose weight even faster. And swimming will not only help take weight off, it will firm you up and improve your muscle tone, perhaps giving you a new, sleek look!

The curse of Frankie Goes to Hollywood

By Mike Nichols

WHATEVER happened to *Frankie Goes to Hollywood*? A question that you might also discover what went wrong with pop singer Pete Dinklage's career.

For the man who was once tipped to take the place of superstar Holly Johnson as lead vocalist of the group has virtually disappeared from the pop scene.

Now, instead of playing to packed out theatres he has had to settle with small town halls and even pubs.

Like *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* everything has suddenly gone wrong for him.

And Holly, who left the supergroup to pursue a solo career is also finding things hard. As yet he has failed to have a hit on his own as the curse of Frankie strikes again.

Why he soon dropped out of the running for the job and the band have recently had to advertise for a new singer. They placed a small ad in a music magazine stating: Wanted: lead singer for *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*.

Holly had been unhappy with his role in the band for a long time before the split and according to him any new singer is in for BIG

problems.

It is just three years since *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* (FGTH) made chart history, securing a hat-trick of No. 1 chart successes with their first three singles, *Relax*, *Two Tribes* and *The Power of Love*. After the release of their debut album, *Welcome to the Pleasure Dome* in late '84, the band went on a world tour to consolidate their success.

Then, apparently, is where the problems began. Holly is basically a shy person and couldn't stand constantly being in the spotlight every time FGTH reached a different city. On the other hand the rest of the band, especially "The Lads" — guitarist Nasher, drummer Pete and bassist Mark O'Toole — are typical boisterous Liverpudlians.

The lads make their presence felt every time they are invited to make a prestige TV appearance; fire extinguishers are set off, an excess of alcohol is consumed and, at the Montreux Festival in Switzerland they went the whole hog and destroyed the stage after finishing their spot. Damage to equipment was estimated to be £10,000.

In fact, "The Lads" are so wild that Holly has yet to invite them round to his sumptuous new home in Fulham, West London.

He says jokingly that they'd probably end up smashing up his prized antiques and hand-painted tea service.

Another reason is that Holly's constant comparison, Wolfgang, won't have them in the house. And Holly Johnson's decision to side with his friend instead of his band is symbolic of the way both parties have grown apart.

Occupying a place somewhere between the two is dancer and backing vocalist Paul Rutherford. Although like Holly, a gentle character, Paul has a strong streak of Lads-ness in him. Whereas Holly has become something of a recluse, Paul loves going out to clubs and getting drunk and so is able to be a little more tolerant of their behaviour.

The upshot of all this is that Frankie are unlikely to split. Four out of five of them continue to get on perfectly well. Singer Holly is the odd man out. Not surprisingly he soon started work on a solo album.

And as the principal songwriter in FGTH his decision to leave has left them very short of material.

For a while Pete Wylie was being hotly tipped as their new singer. It would have made a lot of sense. Like the rest of FGTH Pete is a Liverpudlian.

He is loud, familiar, friendly and an unashamed extrovert and gatecrasher of parties — something The Lads would have heartily approved of. The long-established music paper, *Melody Maker*, awarded him the honour of *Ligger* (that is to say, free-loader or party-goer) of 1988. It was not unjustified. Hardly a party, club-opening or some sort of boozy affair goes by without Pete in attendance.

In the past he's enjoyed a reasonably successful pop career, scoring Top 10 hits with songs like *The Story Of The Blues*, *Come Back and Sinful*, which was the first record to come out under his own name. The others were made by Wail! the band he formed in the late Seventies.

This followed a brief sojourn in the legendary Crucial Three, a Liverpool band which

also included Ian McCulloch of Echo & The Bunnymen and Julian Cope, who recently had a hit with *World Shut Your Mouth* following the demise of his earlier band, the Teardrop Explodes.

Part of the problem for the sudden nosedive in his fortune is his innate shyness.

He explains: "I don't answer the door very often and I have the Ansaphone on all the time."

"When it comes to people I don't find it easy. I can't walk into a club on my own and I can't walk into shops on my own. But not because I'm in a bad mood — I've always been like that."

"Okay, I admit it. I'm incredibly insecure, that's why I need to be loved. But I don't necessarily think that that's a bad thing. Just like it doesn't really matter me talking a lot because I have the thing of being able to be funny."

"That's quite important. It doesn't matter if you talk non-stop because if you're funny they don't really notice. It's not as if you're being boring or a dullard or something."



Pop singer Pete Wylie in sombre mood. Now, he too, has been touched by *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* curse.



Hit man: Holly Johnson bells out another chart-buster as lead singer with *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*. His solo career has so far failed to take-off.



Aiming for the top: Former chart sensations *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*. Now without Holly Johnson in their line-up the band is having to work harder for its success.

Designer gardens

Edible landscaping — a new path of creativity

By Cynthia Hanson

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (CSM): Line the walkway with lavender and Chinese kale? Why not plant vegetables that look as good as they taste, and ornamentals that taste as good as they look? That's the idea behind a growing concept in gardening: edible landscaping.

"Edible landscaping means that maybe some things are in little rows," says Robert Kourick in Occidental, Calif. "but the way it's laid out is much more visually appealing and less geometric, or the lines don't hit you hard between the eyes."

"It's rearranging (edible plants) in more ornamental patterns," says Earle Barnhart, an edible landscaping expert who writes a newspaper column on the subject. "Before recorded history, people have always had food plants around their houses. In fact, a lot more in the past than now," he says. But "calling it 'edible landscaping' is relatively new." The phrase was coined in the '70s.

Barnhart and his wife, Hilde Maingay, design gardens and greenhouses and teach edible landscaping at The New Alchemy Institute, an alternative agriculture, housing, and energy research and education institute here on Cape Cod.

At their suburban, partly greenhouse-heated home (it doubles as a sort of live-in science experiment), the couple have been researching the design and use of edible plants since 1972. A backyard

greenhouse holds a five-year-old fig tree, three large aquaculture containers filled with catfish, and red endive, daikon radishes, Chinese mustard greens — all part of an experiment.

Ms. Maingay points to an oversize turnip. "If you didn't eat it in the winter," she says, "next spring it would make a great big raised flower stalk."

Although the outdoor beds lie dormant, during the growing season they team with combinations of flowers, herbs, and vegetables.

"We have a couple hundred different species of food plants all mixed in here. Some are grapevines that live on the trellises, some are vegetables up in those beds," he says with a wave of his hand. "raspberries and elderberries — many kinds, all mixed up."

Back in the house, rice cookies and carob pods fill a plate on the wooden kitchen table. Maingay talks about the aesthetic and practical nature of edible landscaping.

"Let's say your family needs only two tomato plants. There's no reason to put them in a row in a vegetable garden. You could put them right in between your blueberry bushes," she explains in her Dutch-accented English.

The couple sees increased interest in the alternative gardening method they have studied for 18 years. Recently the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania installed costly food gardening and edible landscaping demonstrations, for example.

"I would say (interest) is growing by leaps and bounds," says Kourick. "When you see English gardening books... referring to 'edible landscaping,' you know we're getting somewhere," he says.

About the same time Barnhart and Maingay were cultivating edible landscapes on the East Coast, Kourick and another designer, Rosalind Creasy of Los Altos, Calif., were tinkering with edible landscaping on the West Coast.

"As I was taking courses in landscape design, I became very aware that they never used any edible plants. It was forbidden," says Ms. Creasy. "An apple tree was considered ugly, but a crabapple was considered beautiful. It was this amazing split that we had." Creasy and Kourick have written books on the subject.

She is fond of giving tidbits of design advice: "There aren't any ugly herbs. They just fit in with any kind of a shrub border or flower border." For patio or small-space gardening she recommends different varieties of colourful lettuce interspersed with flowers or spilling over the sides of pots.

And for the space-deprived city dweller: "I've photographed some very fascinating edible landscapes on the rooftops of New York City," says Kourick. "espaliered fruit tree and little containers of salad mixes... that you clip off when it's just 3 or 4 inches tall, and make a mixed salad." (The presence of lead in city soil and air may be a problem; check with a local or national garden club.)

"The idea is to make it fun," says Kourick. "If the garden becomes a tyrant and controls you, you're doing something wrong." Kourick recommends starting small: no more than 100 square feet of vegetable garden.

The landscapers interviewed agreed that edible landscaping can open new paths of creativity. But not all edible plants are attractive. "I would never vote for a Brussels sprout plant; to me, they look top-heavy," says Creasy. "I don't think pumpkin vines, the big ones, belong in someone's landscape because the vine goes 20 feet," she adds, interplanting mini-pumpkins with purple morning glories over an arbor is "absolutely smashing."

And not all edible flowers are savory. She says Johnny jump-ups "taste like lettuce."

Some Edible Landscapers' Favourites Barnhart and Maingay: Chinese Multiplying Onion. Perennial that produces all year long. Low maintenance, high productivity.

Scarlet Runner Bean. Can cover the side of a house with red flowers that bloom all summer. Edible if picked before it gets large. Recommended for small, city spaces.

Thyme. A great herb to grow through patio cracks.

Rosalind Creasy: Lavender. Makes great lavender ice cream and a beautiful border.

Nasturtium. Spicy orange, yellow, and red flowers. Grows quickly in spring.

Can be added to salads or butter.

Blueberry and raspberry bushes. Relatively manageable fruiting plants for landscaping. Grown against a fence, raspberries make a colorful backdrop for perennials.

Robert Kourick: Pink Pear Apple Tree. Produces a favorite eating and baking apple. Fruit turns bot rose-pink colour when baked.

Rosemary. Rich, dark green herb with small blue flower. Great backdrop for red flowering plants.

Ornamental kale. Tasty, leafy plant. Bright reds and greens, and creamy white varieties. Grows through most winters.

Meet the Monarch of Ornamental Edibles.

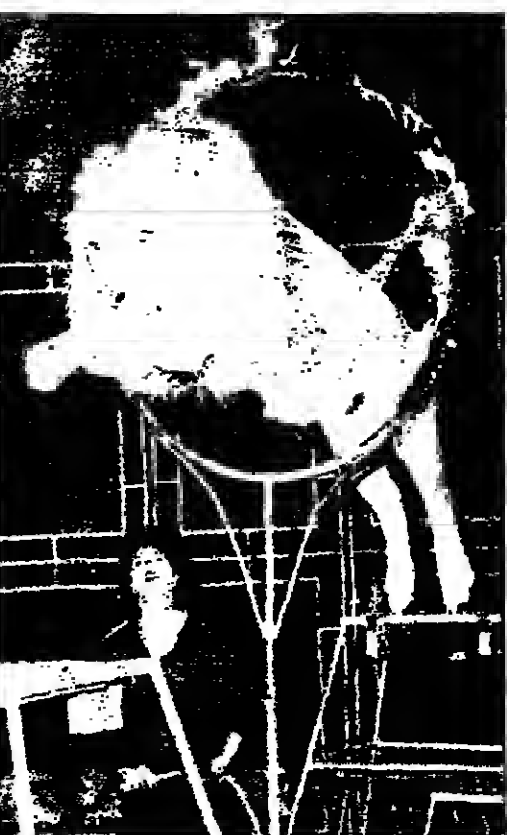
"I call it the 'king of the ornamental edibles,' because it has everything," says edible landscaper Hilde Maingay. She's speaking of bamboo. "Birds love to live in it because you never see a squirrel in it — or anything else that can climb a tree because it moves too much. It's beautiful — it's broad-leaf evergreen." And it grows anywhere, she adds — sun or shade, in any soil condition.

Its hardness, in fact, is one of its drawbacks: Uncontained, bamboo will cover your yard, your neighbour's yard, and your neighbourhood. Once established, it is very difficult to remove. Ms. Maingay and her husband, Earle Barnhart, who propagate and sell bamboo, solve the problem by burying sheets of flexible fiberglass used in greenhouses) 18 inches deep around their bamboo beds.



Earle Barnhart and Hilde Maingay stand in the doorway of one of their greenhouses in Woods Hole, Mass.

Today, the Grand Opening of The International Romanian Circus



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SPORTS BRIEFS

Stromberg back

STOCKHOLM, April 4. (Reuters): Midfielder Glenn Stromberg, a key player in the Swedish national side during the 1980s, was recalled to the squad yesterday after an absence of six months for a World Cup soccer warm-up match against Algeria.

Dutch side

AMSTERDAM, April 4. (Reuters): Johan Cruyff said yesterday he was prepared to discuss taking over the Dutch national soccer side for the World Cup finals if coach Thuis Lubbers loses his legal action to save his job.

Argentine manager

MILAN, Italy, April 4. (AP): Carlos Salvador Bilardo yesterday was quoted as saying he will resign as manager of Argentina's national soccer team following "the very last game of my team in the next World Cup, which I hope is the July 8 final."

Milan stadium

MILAN, Italy, April 4. (AP): The international soccer federation (Fifa) has urged Italian organizers to replace the turf at Milan's Meazza stadium, where the World Cup opener between Argentina and Cameroon is scheduled June 8.

Argentina win

BELFAST, April 4. (Reuters): World champions Argentina, minus Diego Maradona, ended their 10-match goalless run by beating Northern Ireland club side Linfield 1-0 yesterday.

Ajax triumph

AMSTERDAM, April 4. (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam smashed five goals past relegation-threatened Haarlem to go level on points with PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch League yesterday.

Perimeter fencing

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): Perimeter fencing at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough soccer ground where 95 fans were crushed to death a year ago is to be taken down at the end of the season.

Appeal lost

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): Former West Ham manager Lou Macari lost his appeal yesterday against his suspension by the Football Association (FA) for breaching rules on betting while in charge at Second Division Swindon.

Brazil squad

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Sebastiao Lazaroni, coach of Brazil's national soccer team, has confirmed he will name injured star Romario to the World Cup squad despite a broken leg.

Fifa president

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Jose Havelange, president of soccer's international ruling body (Fifa), says he has no intention of lifting the lifetime ban on Chilean goalkeeper Roberto Rojas, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Major stadium

PARIS, April 4. (AP): The French National Olympic and sports committee yesterday proposed construction of a major stadium in the Bois de Vincennes, on the outskirts of Paris, as part of a bid to play host to the 1998 World Cup soccer tournament.

Marsh banned

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 4. (Reuters): Henry Marsh, former national champion in the 3,000-metre steeplechase and four-time US Olympian, has been suspended for two years for failing to be tested for drugs, the Athletics Congress (TAC) said yesterday.

Brabham quits

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): Gary Brabham yesterday announced he was quitting Formula One team because of dissatisfaction at the team's lack of progress this season.

Washburn jailed

DECATUR, Georgia, April 4. (AP): Chris Washburn, who was expelled from the National Basketball Association because of drug problems, was in a suburban Atlanta jail yesterday after his arrest for cocaine and marijuana possession.

Title defence

NEWARK, New Jersey, April 4. (AP): IBF junior welterweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez must defend his title against Meldrick Taylor within six months, the boxing organization ruled yesterday.

Banespa Open

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Top-seeded Luiz Mattar of Brazil beat countryman Jaime Onizuka in a come-from-behind 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 first-round victory yesterday in the \$250,000 Banespa Open tennis tournament.

Estoril Open

ESTORIL, Portugal, April 4. (AP): Top-seeded Jay Berger of the United States routed Portugal's Joao Cunha Silva 6-1, 6-3 yesterday, to advance to the second round of the \$250,000 ATP men's Estoril Open.

Fiorentina, Bremen draw 1-1

Sampdoria hold Monaco

MONACO, April 4. (Reuters): Two goals by star striker Gianluca Vialli gave Sampdoria a 2-2 draw at Monaco yesterday to put the Italian side in sight of a second successive European Cup Winner's Cup final.

Vialli, back in first team action after two months out with a foot injury, stunned the French League club with two goals in three minutes in the second half of the semifinal first leg.

He fired home a 75th minute penalty then followed up with a superb header.

Monaco dominated the first half and led through Liberian George Weah in the 43rd minute. Fabrice Mege equalised in the 79th minute.

The outcome may prove insufficient for Monaco in the return leg in Genoa in two weeks against the team who lost to Barcelona in last year's final.

Weah, voted Africa's Footballer of the Year in 1989, headed home a pass from Argentine Raulo Diaz to silence 10,000 Sampdoria supporters.

The goal was richly deserved

because Monaco's attacking pair had constantly outshone Sampdoria's duo of Vialli and Roberto Mancini.

As early as the third minute, Diaz had missed an ideal chance after a perfect pass from Weah. Weah was guilty of two glaring missed chances in the 35th and 37th minutes.

Spurred by the setback, Vialli and Mancini found all their flair in the second half.

In the 49th minute, Mancini threatened Monaco goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettori for the first time with a vicious header from a pass by Vialli.

Eleven minutes later Antonio Lombardo fed Mancini, who lobbed Ettori but the ball rolled narrowly wide.

Sampdoria finally broke through when Vialli was awarded a penalty after a foul by Roger Mendy.

Three minutes later, in a copy of Monaco's first goal, Vialli headed home his second from a splendid pass by Mancini.

Monaco levelled straight away when Mege broke clear on his own and lobbed Luca Pagliuca.

A bizarre own goal in the dying seconds by Fiorentina goalkeeper Marco Landucci kept alive Werder Bremen's hopes of a place in the UEFA Cup final with a 1-1 draw in their semifinal first leg yesterday.

Landucci fumbled a curled corner in the 90th minute after a collision with defender Sergio

Battistini and the ball ended in the net to earn the West German side a draw to take to the second leg in Italy in two weeks.

But the mistake was just reward for a hard-working Werder side who attacked throughout but had been hit by a break-away goal by Marco Nappi in the 88th minute.

Much to the distaste of the 232,000-crowd, Fiorentina packed their defence with players for most of the match, making it difficult for the West Germans to find space to shoot at goal.

"We attacked one goal for virtually the whole 90 minutes," Werder coach Otto Rehagel said afterwards. "The equaliser was justice."

Fiorentina packed all eleven players into their own penalty area on several occasions in the second half to hold off Werder who knocked holders Napoli out of the competition in the third round.

"The Italians concentrated on their defence as expected so it was very difficult for us to score," Rehagel said. "My team battled bravely. We are still in with a great chance for the second leg."

But Fiorentina coach Francesco Graziani, whose negative defensive tactics won him few friends among the Bremen crowd, said he believed his team would have a psychological advantage when the teams met a second time.



Monaco's Marcel Dib (left) and a Sampdoria player chase after the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Liverpool go 3 points clear

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): Ian Rush hit his 22nd goal of the season to help Liverpool beat Wimbledon 2-1 and go three points clear at the top of the English Soccer League yesterday.

Welsh international striker Rush gave Liverpool a ninth minute lead and Scotland's Gary Gillespie put the home team 2-0 ahead with the final kick of the first half.

But Wimbledon, boasting the best away record in the First Division, refused to lie down and pulled back a goal in the 45th minute through Terry Gibson in a goalmouth scramble.

Liverpool, beaten 2-1 by Wimbledon in a memorable 1988 FA Cup final at Wembley, were without injured striker Peter Beardsley but his England teammate John Barnes fitted smoothly into the central attacking role alongside Rush.

Barnes set up the opening goal, stroking the ball out to Rush on the right of the area for the Welshman to control before

smashing a ferocious shot into the back of the net.

Wimbledon had come close to scoring from their first corner of the match a minute before Rush's goal and both teams had narrow misses in the last 15 minutes with Wimbledon substitute Alan Cork hooking over the Liverpool bar in injury time.

Liverpool now have 62 points and have played one match less than nearest rivals Aston Villa who have 59 points from 32 games.

In the night's other First Division action, Southampton, beaten 3-2 at Anfield on Saturday, lost 2-0 at home to Queen's Park Rangers with both goals coming in the last 15 minutes.

Danny Maddix headed QPR ahead in the 75th minute and Roy Wegerle rounded off the scoring 10 minutes later.

Results
English Division One
Liverpool 2 Wimbledon 1
Southampton 0 QPR 2
Bournemouth 1 Wolves 1
Barnsley 0 Blackburn 1
Leicester 3 Oldham 0

Standings
English League Division One soccer table after matches played yesterday (table under - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):
Liverpool 31 12 8 5 38 31 62
Aston Villa 30 11 8 11 30 30 59
Sheff Wed 30 11 7 12 34 34 44
Tottenham 32 14 6 12 48 41 48
Everton 31 14 6 11 44 37 48
Chelsea 32 12 8 12 43 48 43
QPR 31 10 9 12 38 46 46
Nott Forest 31 12 8 11 42 36 44
Norwich 31 11 10 10 34 44 44
Coventry 32 13 5 14 34 44 44
Wimbledon 31 10 13 8 40 35 43
Southampton 32 11 10 11 60 57 43
Derby 31 11 7 13 37 40 40
Sheff Wed 31 10 13 32 43 40 40
Crystal P 31 11 7 13 34 57 40
Manchester U 31 8 10 13 33 46 34
Luton 32 7 12 13 35 49 33
Charlton 32 7 9 16 27 43 30
Millwall 32 5 10 17 37 55 25

Swiss beat Romanians

LUCERNE, Switzerland, April 4. (Reuters): Swiss captain Heinz Hermann celebrated his 100th international yesterday by scoring in his country's 2-1 defeat of Romania in a soccer friendly.

World Cup finalist Romania, without several Dinamo Bucharest players who were released for a European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal with Anderlecht of Belgium today, went ahead through a penalty by Gheorghe Hagi in the 26th minute.

The young Swiss team, who failed to qualify for Italy, stormed the Romanian goal in search of the equaliser and Hermann levelled seconds before halftime.

Neuchatel Xamax striker Frederic Chesari, who has scored five goals for the Swiss League leaders in their last four games, put the hosts ahead with an opportunistic goal three minutes into the second half.

Romania, fresh from their recent 3-1 victory over fellow World Cup qualifiers Egypt in Cairo, tried hard to get on terms but were well held by a resolute Swiss defence.

The win after the 1-0 defeat by World Cup hosts Italy in Basle on Saturday was a welcome morale-booster for Swiss national coach Uli Stielike after four defeats in seven matches.



Bremen's Karl Heinz Riedle (centre) is sandwiched between Fiorentina's Pin (left) and Maluski. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wright and Chung win

IT WAS Novices Cup Day at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club last Friday. Ian Wright with 28 handicap won the men's trophy and housewife J. R. Chung 32 handicap won the women's trophy. The novices contest was part of the March medal the main competition of the day.

Sixty-eight golfers turned out to contest for three divisional medals under ideal weather conditions and the winners were:
Division "A": J. H. Kim (19) carded 69 to win by one stroke from Adnan Assaf (4) who carded a 70 and C. K. Lim (7) was with 71 in third place.
Division "B" was won by R. K. Sethi (15) who carded 68 from Ernest Cunningham (17) with a 69 and R. Hopkins (20) also with 69.

Division "C" winner was Y. K. Lee (22) who carded 66 to win on a countback from Y. K. Loom (27) also with 66 and in third place Y. B. Kwon (25) carded 68.

The best gross of the day was 74 by Adnan Assaf (4) H. S. Nam won the longest drive for men on the par-5 twelfth and Monique Le Meuron was the winner of the ladies longest drive on the same hole. J. R. Chung had the most accurate shot of the day to win nearest to the pin contest on the par-3 third.



All the winners with their prizes.

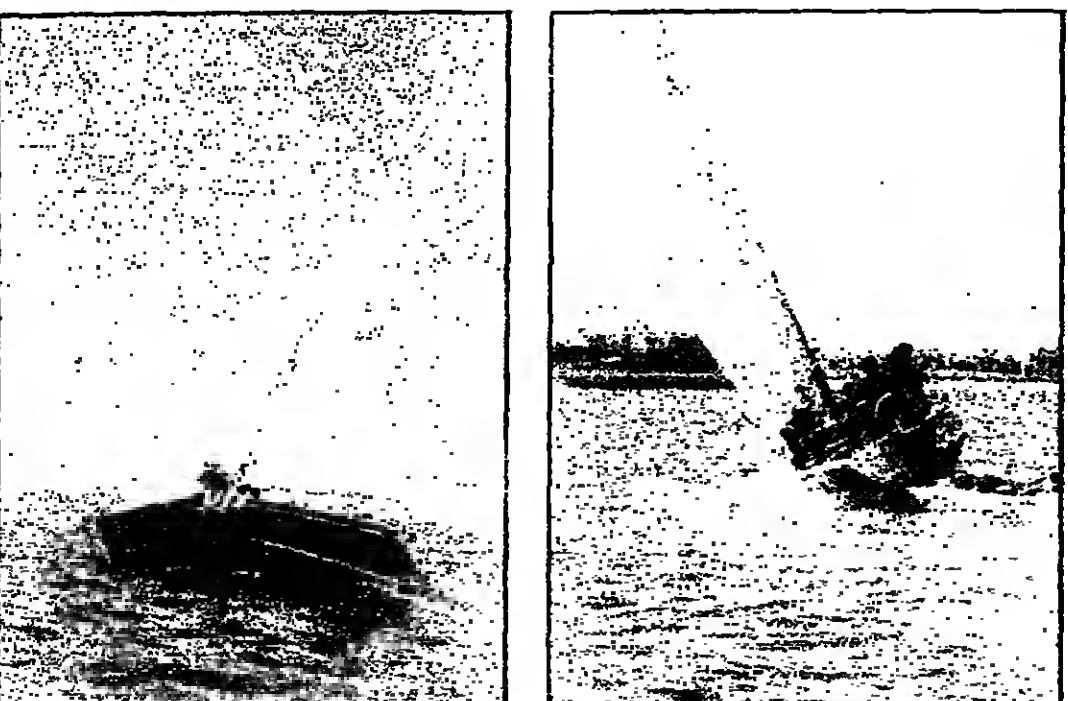
Red Viking wins Spring Series, Shammal second

THE Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association concluded its Spring Series last Friday with a long distance race, SS11. Unfortunately, the race was abandoned due to coastal security reasons; this meant that the pre-race leader, Red Viking was declared the winner of the Spring Series.

SS11 was scheduled as a long distance overnight passage race to Taylors Rock (35 miles South-East of Ras Salamiya) and back to the Shaah Marina. The last minute failure to gain the required approval from the Kuwait Regulatory Body caused the race to be rescheduled to a course within Kuwait Bay.

Very light weather conditions resulted in the race officer postponing the race start by one hour to 5:00 pm. The seven participating yachts drifted aimlessly around the start line in an effort to avoid being stranded downwind.

With just over a minute to the gun Danat and Gull Wing went for the start-line on starboard tack. The former boat used to force Gull Wing to tack onto port and miss the line. Meanwhile Red Viking had moved up to challenge Danat for right-of-way with the result that she too was forced to miss her run at the line.



Red Viking (left) and Shammal: took first and second positions respectively

So, it was Red Viking that crossed the line first and immediately caught the new North-East breeze. Gull Wing staged a superb recovery after throwing a quick gybe and building good boat speed. Shammal had opted to start down the line and was struggling to find the fresh breezes although she was not in as much trouble as Good Company and Magic Flute which had failed to find any breeze.

As a result of the wind shift the first mark was no longer a windward mark; the first leg had become a beam reach and the quick thinking Shammal team boistered a spinnaker to pull clear of Red Viking and rounded the mark in third place behind Gull Wing and Danat.

The second leg to Bell Buoy proved to be a beat in gentle 6 knot breezes with the aid of a very strong spring tide. Gull Wing was relying on the conditions and had opened up a very handy lead over her tie-for-tac opponent, Danat. Red Viking tacked onto port after deciding there was no value in sitting on Shammal's transom.

With the sun setting over the city skyline, the fleet converged on the Bell Buoy. It was apparent that the ebb tide would sweep the boats towards the mark. Gull Wing maintained her lead, and passing Bell Buoy, set off in pursuit of the Mast's mark. Danat had sailed a higher course and had to come off the wind hurriedly in order to make the mark.

Red Viking had over-stepped the mark and combined with a falling breeze found herself stranded downwind of Bell Buoy. Her crew were forced to knock down a second downwind as they witnessed the fleet race by; Shammal, Good Company, Magic Flute and

Whispering rode the amazingly strong tide to their advantage. With the sun well and truly set the various crews donned warmer clothing and looked forward to what they all hoped would be an enjoyable nights sail. Gull Wing tacked into port and appeared to sail past the Mast's mark. This let Danat in as she maintained her heading and turned a 10 minute deficit into a 5 minute lead.

Meanwhile, Red Viking had extracted herself from the depths of Bell Buoy and overtook Shammal, Good Company and Whispering by sailing a direct line for the mast.

After gybing the Mast's mark, the leading Danat was intercepted by a branch of the local security forces and advised to abandon the race and return to the Shaah Marina. With great disappointment all Kosa yachts realised the race was over and dispendently made their way back to Shaah.

Results of the Kosa Spring Series: 1) Red Viking 2) Shammal 3) Magic Flute.

The local racing calendar has now concluded and the focus for the next month is directed towards Bahrain. A feeder race, Shaah to Khiran Resort over a 75 mile distance is scheduled for Thursday April 12 starting at 4:00 pm.

Faldo set to defend Masters golf title

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 4. (Reuters): Nick Faldo is not worried about successfully defending his Masters title this year.

"There's no pressure on me to repeat," the 32-year-old Englishman said yesterday, two days before the start of the 1990 Masters.

"That's only been done by Jack," he explained, referring to Jack Nicklaus, one of the greatest golfers of all time and the only one to win back-to-back Masters.

"I'm able to forget about last year. Once I start out there, it's all fresh," said an obviously relaxed Faldo, who won the coveted green jacket of the Masters champion last year with a birdie on the second hole of a sudden death playoff with American Scott Hoch.

While Faldo, the 1985 British Open champion, took a casual attitude toward winning consecutive Masters titles, he acknowledged that he was in a good position to do just that.

"I'm feeling better than I did last year," he told reporters after a practice round over the 6,905-yard, 16,313 metre course at the Augusta National Golf Club, permanent home of the Masters. "It's just a matter of being relaxed and going out and playing," Faldo added.

However, repeating as Masters champion has proven almost impossible over the years.

Since the great Bobby Jones founded the tournament in 1934, only Nicklaus has managed the feat — in 1965 and 1966 — but barely. He had to survive an 18-hole playoff with two others to do it.

When Sandy Lyle, Faldo's Scottish nemesis, returned to Augusta last year after winning his green jacket in 1988, he failed to make the cut with rounds of 77 and 76.

Seve Ballesteros, the brilliant Spaniard considered to be one of the world's best these days, won the Masters in 1980 and 1983 and he, too, failed to make the cut the following years.

Faldo has his work cut out for him this week as there are any number of players here who could win this event, the first of golf's four "major" championships.

One need look no further than the 50-year-old Nicklaus, who has won the Masters six times — two more than anyone else.

Nicklaus, who has also been second at Augusta four times, is coming off a victory on Sunday in the first "senior" tournament of his career and he says he is playing some of the best golf of his life.

Nicklaus shares Augusta National's 72-hole record of 271 — 17 under par. "Obviously I like the course and know how to play it," he said of Augusta after his four-stroke victory in the seniors event on Sunday.

Ballesteros could also start the 1990s as he did the 1980s, when he won the first of his two green jackets.

While he has not played up to his usual form this year, Ballesteros finished a strong third on Sunday in the US PGA Tour event at the Woodlands in Texas and he could be poised for victory here.

If anyone is ready to win at Augusta, it could be Australian Greg Norman, who has finished within one stroke of the winner in three of the past four Masters — including 1987, when Larry Mize slipped in for a birdie on the second hole of their playoff.

Norman has already won once in this country — at the Doris Open, when he clipped in for an eagle on the first playoff hole — and he finished second in the Bay Hill Classic two weeks ago.

Nicklaus hits spectator

AUGUSTA, Georgia, April 4. (AP): Jack Nicklaus, fresh off his first victory as a senior, hit a spectator with a golf ball yesterday during his first practice round at the Masters.

Nicklaus, a six-time Masters champion, hooked his second shot on the 555-yard par 5 second hole and the ball hit the spectator just below the right eye.

Another spectator used a handkerchief to stem the flow of blood. Nicklaus came over and apologized, patting the man on the back.

Nicklaus resumed his round with Greg Norman and Arnold Palmer after a few minutes of conversation with the injured spectator.

KPBC set to take on EEI for KPBL 1st Conference title

EEI — Engineering Equipment Inc. battle KPBC-Kuwait Pro-Fab. Building Co. for the KPBL 1st-Conference title tomorrow, at the Kaifan High School Gym. Game time is 7:30 pm, right after the Trico v KHC-Bayan tussle for 3rd place.

EEI is expected to have their hands full as the KPBC 5 go all out to avenge their One-Day Championship loss to the former. In their previous encounter, in a test of skill, patience and endurance, KPBC bowed out, 63-65. Halftime score stood at 32-33 in favour of EEI.

Since then both teams went separate ways and won all of their 6 matches (2 in the semifinals and 4 in the eliminations). EEI beat Al Ghanim 86-70 and then followed it up with a 117-83 rout of Nissan Al Bahrain. Next was Trico International who they beat to the tune

of 105-102 and rounding up the eliminations was their rout of KRP 108-88. In the single round robin championship, EEI first demolished KHC-Bayan 130-103 and then arranged a title showdown with KPBC with a masterful win over Trico International 121-109.

KPBC, on the other hand, started out with an easy win over Overland 118-77, then followed it up with a 113-69 thrashing of Kay & Associates. They had their hands full with the KHC-Bayan but still managed to win by 16 points 97-73, and wound up their elimination round schedules with a 10-point margin over KDD 100-90. In the single round robin championship, KPBC first beat its rival Trico International 103-93 and then coasted to a 98-87 victory over KHC-Bayan.

EEI averaging 111.17 points per game (667 points in 6 games) and yielding an average of 92.5 points per game (555 points in 6 games) is expected to be led by Greg Lugo, Celso Tuadles, Tony Zalavaria, Arpel Dingson and Rey Garcia. Supporting them will be Juan, Canada, Pantulgo, Cabigon, Pepito, Alojado, Garliso and Branzuela. They, however, are at a disadvantage of sorts as skipper Lito Molina has left the country.

KPBC, scoring a total of 629 points in 6 games for an average of 105 points per game and yielding a total of 489 points for an average of 81.5 points per game are going to be led by the inspired play of Edwin Castro "The Macho Man from Adan". He will be ably supported by Lito de la Cruz, Ric "Tigas", Eny

"Carnation", "Heartbreak Kid" Barcelona former EEI player Butch Arganoza and Len Serrano. The other KPBC dribblers who will play the reliever's role are Alejandro, Lito "Alaska", Ed Manuel, Richard Mercado, Emil Caro, and Fer "Pasay Kid" Dela Cruz.

Offensive-wise EEI looks the top pick. However defensively KPBC seems a wise bet as no opponent of KPBC managed to score over 94 points. Experts predict a down to wire cardiac finish with the team maintaining their composure in the end game prevailing.

In other matches of the day, the 1st game starting at 3:00 pm will be KRP v Overland. Overland, last week's loser to KDD by a mere 2 points (83-85), are

expected to go all out for that win that could earn them the top slot in the Consolation Round.

The second match of the day is between Al Ghanim Freight & Travel and the depleted KDD-Kuwait Danish Dairy. This is also a winner-take-all match for the Consolation Round pendulum. Al Ghanim is slightly favoured with the return of vacationing player Danny Sacuza to its fold.

The 3rd game of the day will pit Trico International against KHC-Bayan. This is going to be another exciting and interesting match as the two teams meet for the very first time to dispute 3rd & 4th Places respectively KHC-Bayan, the darling of the crowd will again be led by Mr. X-Ortega who promised again

to put up a decent show for everyone.

Friday's schedules are as follows:
3:00 pm KRP v OTC
4:00 pm KDD v Al Ghanim
4:30 pm Trico v KHC-Bayan
7:30 pm EEI v KPBC
9:30 pm awarding of prizes

In a related development the KPBL Secretariat has announced that in co-operation with the Philippine embassy herein Kuwait, a pool of 30 players will be established and trained to compete in other basketball tournaments being held here in Kuwait. All players who are interested to try out for the teams are requested to contact the secretary-general, or any of the KPBL board members.

It was also announced that the KPBL 2nd-Conference is tentatively

set for May 25-August 24 pending the availability of the playing venue. The 2nd-Conference shall include among others, An Invitational Tournament, The Regular Tournament, ladies' basketball and volleyball, three point Shoot-Out and many more culminating in the possibility of bringing any of the Manila based PBA teams to Kuwait for a three-day tournament.

Full details of Friday's games as well as KPBL highlights will be covered exclusively by the Arab Times in Sunday's edition.

KPBL fans are advised to check out the Trico International office, located at the ground floor of the Souk Al Watiya (Adidas) for free bus transportation Kuwait-Kaifan-Kuwait starting from 2:30 pm - 10:30 am.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Dope tests

COLOGNE, West Germany, April 4. (Reuters): Random dope tests in training must be underway worldwide by next year to safeguard the credibility of top-class sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, a leading doping expert said yesterday. International Olympic Committee (IOC) drugs expert Manfred Donike said sport needed to move fast to introduce tests for muscle-building anabolic steroids to make sure athletes could be proved to be drug-free in the last year before Barcelona.

NBA games

NEW YORK, April 4. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Detroit P	93	Boston	82
New York	106	Cleveland	97
Golden State	127	Orlando	126
Philadelphia	133	Houston	112
Chicago	109	Indiana	102
Minnesota	92	San Antonio	90
Utah	127	Charlotte	104
LA Clippers	114	Sacramento	105
Seattle	136	Portland	134
Phoenix	117	Dallas	111

IOC member

NAIROBI, Kenya, April 4. (AP): Reginald S. Alexander, a Kenyan politician, sports enthusiast, and long-time member of the International Olympic Committee, has died of an undisclosed illness. He was 75.

Tour winner

PARIS, April 4. (AP): Greg Lemond, winner of the Tour de France and the World Cycling Championships, plans to take the month of April off from competition to recuperate, officials from his Z cycling team said yesterday.

Italian club

ROME, April 4. (AP): Messaggero Roma, the Italian basketball club that has been chasing young American stars since last year, is bidding for Loyola Marymount University forward Bo Kimble, club sources said yesterday.

Portuguese GP

LISBON, Portugal, April 4. (AP): The Formula One circus will not come to town for September's Portuguese Grand Prix, unless the owners of the Estoril race track and the Portuguese Automobile Club end a bitter feud by Thursday, the president of the National Auto Racing Authority said.

Mendy hurt

ST ETIENNE, France, April 4. (UPI): Bernard Mendy, St Etienne's international B team striker, will miss the rest of the French League season with a pulled left thigh muscle, team officials said yesterday. Mendy was injured Saturday in his club's 1-1 draw with Toulouse.

Elimination fight

NAIROBI, April 4. (UPI): Kenyan Juma Kibondo will meet 24-year-old Dave Chilundo of Zambia in a 12-round Commonwealth light-welterweight elimination fight in Nairobi Saturday, local boxing promoter Reuben Ndolo announced yesterday.

Japanese stadium

TOKYO, April 4. (UPI): The National Stadium, main site of the 1990 Tokyo Olympic games, was closed for seven months, starting Monday, to undergo face lifting reconstruction in preparation for the World Track and Field Championships next year, the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday.

Austrian director

VIENNA, April 4. (UPI): Austria's Davis Cup team director Ronald Leigeb said yesterday he is against using the indoor ferry Dusika Stadium when Austria faces the US in the semifinals September. "We should have it outdoors," said Leigeb, who is also Thomas Muster's manager.

Dutch captain

LEUVEN, Belgium, April 4. (UPI): Dutch captain Ruud Gullit will have fully recovered from a year-long injury and reach match fitness for the World Cup soccer finals in Italy, his surgeon said yesterday. Gullit, the dreadlocked AC Milan star, underwent three operations on a knee injury under the supervision of specialist Dr Martens of Leuven University Hospital, Belgium.

Richardson, Best hit half centuries

West Indies beat England

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 4. (Reuters): Richie Richardson struck a superb 80 to guide West Indies to a four-wicket victory over England with three balls to spare in the fifth and final one-day international yesterday. It gave West Indies a 3-0 win in the series with the first two matches having been abandoned due to rain. It was their 16th consecutive one-day victory in the Caribbean, their last defeat being four years ago against England in Port of Spain.

West Indies, who won the toss and decided to field, scored 217 for six in 37.3 overs in reply to England's 214 for three.

But what will worry England is not their fifth successive one-day defeat against West Indies, but the thumb injury sustained by their replacement batsman David Smith.

Smith was struck a nasty blow by a short ball from Ezra Moseley, the same bowler who broke one of Graham Gooch's fingers and precipitated Smith's call-up.

An X-ray showed there was no fracture but had bruising may still alter England's plans to include him in the team for the fifth Test match starting tomorrow.

Smith also has a cut on his chin caused by the ball bouncing into his face after he was struck. He was also hit on the helmet by



Richardson: hit an excellent 80

Moseley's first ball and later played on to the Barbadian after having made a disappointing five

runs in 14 overs. Although the match, reduced to 38 overs-a-side because of

rain, went to the last over the outcome was never really in doubt after Richardson and Carlisle Best had put on 112 in 18 overs for the third wicket.

Des Haynes had given the innings a tremendous start with 45 from 53 balls as the 50 came up in the 11th over. Haynes hit seven fours as well as a six before he was out to a brilliant catch at mid-on by Nasser Hussain off spinner Eddie Hemmings.

Richardson, who was dropped twice, reached his 50 from only 57 balls and was finally fifth out in the 35th over when he tried to swing Gladstone Small over mid-wicket and lost his off-stump. He hit 11 fours as well as a six over extra cover off David Capel.

Best's 51 was no less flamboyant, coming off 44 balls and including six fours and six fifties off his legs off Small who was easily the pick of the England bowlers.

England's total was a bigger one than at one time had seemed attainable. When Wayne Larkins was yorked for 34 by Courtney Walsh in the 25th over the score was only 98 but Lamb joined Robin Smith to add 64 in eight overs.

Cutting and driving with immense power, Smith reached his 50 from 71 balls. In all he hit seven fours and faced 85 balls before he was brilliantly run out for 69 by Curtly Ambrose off his

own bowling.

Five overs remained after Smith's dismissal and 52 were plundered from them with Lamb racing to a superb unbeaten 55 which included seven fours.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND
D. Smith b Moseley 5
W. Larkins b Walsh 34
R. Smith run out 69
A. Lamb run out 55
N. Hussain not out 15
Extras (b-2 lb-6 w-14 nb-12) 36
Total (38 overs) 214
(innings closed)

Fall of wickets: 1-42 98 3-161
Did not bat: D. Capel, J. Russell, P. DeFreitas, C. Lewis, G. Small, E. Hemmings.

Bowling: Ambrose 9-2-31-0, Walsh 8-0-49-1, Moseley 7-0-43-1, Marshall 8-0-50-0, Hooper 6-0-31-0.

WEST INDIES
D. Haynes c Hussain b Hemmings 45
G. Gladstone c Russell b Small 6
R. Richardson b Small 80
C. Best c sub b Capel 51
C. Logie c Larkins b DeFreitas 2
C. Hooper c Larkins b Small 12
J. Dujon not out 11
E. Moseley not out 1
Extras (b-6 nb-2 w-1) 9
Total (36 overs, 37.3 overs) 217
Fall of wickets: 1-39 2-78 3-190 4-193 5-199 6-212

Did not bat: Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh.

Bowling: Small 9-1-29-5, DeFreitas 8-3-45-1, Lewis 6-35-0, Capel 6-0-53-1, Hemmings 9-0-31-1.

Result: West Indies won by four wickets



Jorgensen (right) with Buus.

Jorgensen, Lillelund win

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jenni Jorgensen and Kirsten Lillelund stole the show at the Daniella Tennis Open, held at the Gazelle Club recently. Jorgensen lived up to his billing as favourite when he beat Carsten Buus 1-6 6-2 7-5 to take the title in the men's event. Buus just raced through the first set but Jorgensen got his game going in the second.

Buus was ahead 5-2 in the deciding set but Jorgensen refused to surrender and fought back to take the game and the title.

Lillelund had an easier time in the ladies section, where she beat Henrik Jorgensen 6-3 6-2 to clinch the crown.

Lillelund later combined with Jorgensen to beat Jenni and Marianne 6-4 6-3 to take the doubles title.

Jakob Hansen won the 'men's beginners' section with a 6-4 7-5 victory over Jorgensen while Marianne W. was the best among the 'ladies' beginners. Marianne beat Bente R. 7-4 in a one set game.



Lillelund in action.

Egypt cancels League

CAIRO, April 4. (Reuters): Egypt has decided to scrap its League soccer competition to concentrate on preparations for June's World Cup finals, a sports official said today.

"I was interested (in going to Queensland) but I've made a decision to stay here."

Convenor of selectors Don Neely said earlier he could give the vice-captaincy for the upcoming England tour to someone who would be available for New Zealand next season.

"To be honest I didn't hear what Don Neely said it was entirely a thing I sorted out myself," Crowe said.

petition remain unchanged.

No games in the League contest have been played since December because of warm-up matches and other preparations for the World Cup in Italy.

Egypt, drawn in Group F with England, the Netherlands and Ireland, last cancelled the League in 1967 during the six-day war, with Israel.

Agassi rallies to tame McEnroe

LANDOVER, Maryland, April 4. (UPI): Fourth-ranked Andre Agassi, using precision groundstrokes and some timely service returns, defeated a rusty John McEnroe 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, last night in an exhibition tennis match.

Profits from the event will benefit the Hunger Project, an international non-profit organization dedicated to ending world hunger through education and communication.

The match began light-hearted, with both players joking with the crowd. But midway through the first set, the clowning ended. McEnroe, upset with his erratic play and 10 double-faults, slammed several balls into the net and in the air.

"It was pretty intense for an exhibition," said McEnroe. "You sense what the crowd wants, joking around or tennis. I think tonight this crowd wanted tennis."

Agassi scored the decisive break of the final set in ninth game to take a 5-4 lead. With the score tied at 15-15, Agassi captured the next two points with service returns that the out-of-position McEnroe was barely able to reach.

Agassi, 19, sealed the match by

winning the final game at love, on a backhand passing shot.

Agassi jumped out on top early, breaking McEnroe in the fourth game of the match for a 3-1 lead. But McEnroe, who has not played competitively for more than a month because of a groin pull, broke back in the seventh game and once again in the ninth to take a 5-4 lead. McEnroe closed out the set with two consecutive aces.

Fresh off a victory over Stefan Edberg in the finals of the Lipton International Players Championships last week, Agassi broke McEnroe in the fourth and sixth games of the second set. In the sixth game, McEnroe held a 40-15 lead, but double faulted in three of the next four points.

"Considering I haven't played that much, I thought I played pretty well," said McEnroe, currently ranked sixth in the world.

■ And in Orlando, Fla., sixth-seed Jimmy Arias was sent packing yesterday by little-known American John Ross 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 6-3 in the first round of the \$250,000 Orlando Classic men's tennis tournament.

"Tonight was a great start for me," said the 428th-ranked



Andre Agassi

Ross, of his win over the 61st-ranked Arias. "Hopefully, it's the sign of things to come."

In other first-round matches, fourth-seed Scott Davis barely edged past a tenacious, butailing Thomas Hogstedt 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. The 77th ranked Hogstedt spent nine battling the flurrior to arriving in Orlando.

Seventh-seed Veli Paloheimo, of Finland, retired from his

match with Miguel Nido after Nido won the first set 6-4. The 73rd-ranked Paloheimo's return to tennis following a one-month bout with pneumonia and said he felt disoriented.

Ross' career has hung in the balance since he injured his right knee late in the summer of 1989.

Since then, the 26-year-old Ross — who's also been bothered by shoulder, ankle and groin problems — has played infrequently.

"I was very near to questioning whether I would play professional tennis again," Ross said. "After being unhealthy for a year, I was thinking maybe tennis was not supposed to be my career. I'm just thankful I'm playing 100 per cent. But it doesn't mean I'm going to set the world fire."

Ross came on-court with an effective game plan — to serve strong and crowd the net — and it worked like a charm against the 25-year-old Arias.

Arias was noticeably tentative, particularly on his service returns, which gave Ross a big advantage.

Although Ross let-up to let Arias into the second set, he took charge effectively in the third set.

Lendl receives libel damages

Today pays undisclosed sum

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): World number one tennis player Ivan Lendl accepted substantial libel damages from British newspaper yesterday over allegations that he had a secret relationship with former beauty queen Pamela Bonds.

Lendl's lawyer, Peter Sigler, told a London court the Czechoslovak tennis star

had never even met Bonds, a former Miss India whose exploits have figured in Britain's scandal-seeking tabloid press for more than a year.

Nicholas Armstrong, lawyer for the tabloid Today, said the newspaper now accepted there was no truth in its allegations of a relation-

ship between Lendl and Bonds.

In addition to the undisclosed damages, Today agreed to pay Lendl's legal costs.

Bonds, a one-time research assistant in the British Parliament, has denied newspaper charges that she was a call-girl.

Navratilova renews quest for 150th title



Navratilova: thrashed Cioffi

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 4. (Reuters): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova trounced fellow-American Halle Cioffi 6-2 6-1 yesterday in the second round of a \$500,000 women's tennis tournament in her quest for her 150th singles title.

Navratilova, ranked second in the world, lost her bid for a 150th title last week when she bowed to Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in the semifinals on clay in Houston.

She said she was more concerned with her game, which was virtually flawless against Cioffi, than about a 150th title.

"One hundred and fifty is just a round number. It's not even the record," said Navratilova, referring to Chris Evert's 157 career singles titles. "I've been looking ahead too much at tournaments. My next round is my toughest and then I'll go from there."

Navratilova had difficulty serving and volley in the first set

but the 69th-ranked Cioffi, a consistent baseliner who could not threaten Navratilova with her groundstrokes, never found a way to break service.

Third-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States used an efficient combination of serve-and-volley and patience from the baseline to beat Beverly Bowes 6-2 6-2 in her second round match of the clay court tournament.

Fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez had the most difficulty aiming the top eight seeds in action, all of whom received first round byes in the 56-player tournament, but the Spanish teenager still earned a 7-6 (7-2) 6-0 victory over American Camille Benjamin.

Sixth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, a finalist here last year, outplayed Patricia Tarabini of Argentina 6-4 6-2 while second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain was not due to play her first match until this evening.



Maragall (left) talks to IOC members before the joint meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

IOC pleased with Barcelona's progress

BARCELONA, Spain, April 4. (AP): The head of the International Olympic Committee said yesterday that organizers of the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games have made great strides on construction projects essential to the success of the Games.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch also said he saw greater unity among the national, regional and city governments.

In the past, officials have blamed each other for funding and construction delays in roads and public transportation projects needed to get people to and from the events.

This (unity) should provide a powerful boost to help complete the access roads needed around Barcelona since it represents a firm commitment to getting them done in time," Samaranch said.

Samaranch's comments came after a joint meeting of the IOC Co-ordinating Committee and the Barcelona Olympic Organizing Committee (CooB '92) chaired by the city's mayor, Pasqual Maragall. Samaranch praised the creation last Friday by the

Spanish government of an Olympics commission that includes cabinet ministers and is chaired by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Samaranch had suggested such a commission to Gonzalez last year.

Recent news reports have been critical of delays in financing and building a new highway from Barcelona's airport to the city centre.

The reports also have highlighted political battles between the Barcelona mayor, a socialist like Gonzalez, and regional Catalanian government chief Jordi Pujol, a conservative Catalanian nationalist. Barcelona is Catalonia's capital.

"Everybody involved in the organization should always say what they think. But nobody should ever forget that we're all in the same boat working for a great Barcelona victory," said Samaranch, a native of the city.

He also said the Catalanian regional government had promised to create a co-ordinating committee to cut through red tape and speed Olympic-related projects.

English ban on Johnson condemned

COLOGNE, West Germany, April 4. (Reuters): A top West German athletics official said yesterday that a move to stop Ben Johnson from competing in England was scandalous and undermined the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF).

"The English can't just make a decision like that without the IAAF," August Kirsch told Reuters.

"It's a scandal the way they are trying to undermine the rules of the IAAF. International rules say Johnson can run after the end of his ban," Kirsch said.

The English Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) on Monday reaffirmed its policy of not inviting any international athlete banned for drug abuse to its meetings, including Canadian sprinter Johnson whose two-year ban ends in September.

Kirsch, West Germany's IAAF representative and his country's National Olympic committee vice-president, said a move banning Johnson would need the support of the other IAAF members.

"This is a classic case of England's tendency to exaggerate things," he said.

England's ban on Johnson, who was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal in Seoul after testing positive for steroids, is expected to be backed up by the British Athletics Board (BAB) which controls Grand Prix invitations.

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